

Ponting disputes Heseltine account to House

By Richard Norton-Taylor
Mr. Charles Ponting has been accused of leaking the account of the decision to launch the cruise missile to the Labour Party.

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It's time to give punch-clocks their cards.
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Miners reject TUC peace plan

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor
THE 60-week-old coal strike is to go on. Miners' leaders last night unanimously rejected an initiative worked out by the TUC and the National Coal Board.

Mr. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, put forward the document as the best the TUC could achieve in the present circumstances.

but the unanimous view of the 26-man executive was that it was even tougher than they had expected.

Mr. Scargill did not go into details but he said that the NCB's proposals were infinitely worse than those which had been submitted last week.

The union thought there was still a basis for negotiation and it was willing to accept that part of the NCB's agreement with the colliery supervisors' union NACS.

Mr. Scargill said: "We are in a worse position than we were on Sunday. We have been offered a worse deal than we were offered on Sunday."

TV ban on surveillance claims made by ex-officers

CND, miners 'under MI5 monitoring'

By David Hearst
Two former MI5 intelligence officers alleged last night that leading members of CND and the NUM have had their telephones tapped and that political information about the conduct of strikes has been passed to government in direct contravention of MI5's charter.

The former officers alleged that MI5 had infiltrated the headquarters of CND and tapped the telephones of Mr. Arthur Scargill and Mr. Mick MacGaughey, president and vice-president of the NUM.

Full report, page 3

Ms. Massiter claimed that information gained about the CND's peace campaign was passed to a unit set up by Mr. Heseltine to combat the CND's unilateralist line.

This may be seen as a clear breach of the MI5's own operational rules, known as the Maxwell Frye directive, which states: "The Security Service should be kept absolutely free from any political bias or influence."

Another former agent of the MI5, whose anonymity the programme was eager to keep, claimed that the telephones of Mr. Scargill and Mr. MacGaughey were being regularly tapped during disputes in the service.

The IBA said in its statement last night: "The IBA recognises that a number of serious allegations are made in the programme about the surveillance methods operated by the security services and that surveillance is an area of public and parliamentary concern."

programme's makers, who said that their counsel had advised them that a defence against prosecution under the Official Secrets Act was "runnable".

Mr. Larry Gostin, general secretary of the NCCU, who was himself a target of MI5 surveillance, according to the programme, said: "If there has been a breach of any criminal law that is a matter for law enforcement agencies and for an injunction if appropriate. The IBA has no proper remit to act as a law enforcement agency itself."

Mr. Gostin said the IBA was aiding and abetting a cover-up, instead of protecting the public's right to know.

He said: "While accepting the need for intelligence and the security services, the question which arises from this film is whether MI5 has become a law unto itself."



Mrs Thatcher addressing the joint session of Congress yesterday under the watchful eyes of US Vice-President George Bush (left) and Speaker of the House of Representatives Thomas "Tip" O'Neill

Tories' lead cut to 3 points



GUARDIAN MARPLAN INDEX

By Martin Linton
The Conservative Party's lead over Labour has fallen from 8 per cent in January to 3 per cent in the February's Guardian-Marplan Index.

The poll reflects a general drop in the Government's popularity before the verdict in the Cliche Ponting case, which cannot have played much part as it came on the last day of the interviewing period.

	NOW	Jan	Dec	Elect'n
Con	38	41	41	44
Lab	35	33	32	28
All	26	25	26	26
Other	1	1	1	2

Con lead +3 +8 +9 +16

The same picture can be seen in answers to the question "Who would be the best Prime Minister?" where Mrs. Thatcher has slipped back three points to 31 per cent and Neil Kinnock has climbed one to 20 per cent.

	NOW	Jan	Dec	Nov
Thatcher	31	34	35	39
Spee	20	19	20	20
Owen	14	13	13	11
Swales	15	13	13	13
Can't say	20	21	19	14

The overall level of Alliance support has risen only one point to 26 per cent, however, bringing them back to the level they reached at the 1983 election but still nine points behind the Labour Party, and 12 behind the Conservatives.

US warms to Thatcher's defence of strong Alliance

From Alex Brummer and Michael White in Washington
In a rare appearance before a joint session of the US Congress Mrs Thatcher yesterday launched a powerful defence of the important military and economic role played by Europe, and Britain in particular, in the Western Alliance.

The address, which was brimming with Churchillian rhetoric, flayed the Russians, stood up for the Third World, praised the vigour of Ronald Reagan's America and portrayed Britain as a violent country fulfilling with enthusiasm its national security role in the world.

Britain meets her responsibilities for the defence of freedom throughout the world, Mrs Thatcher said to ringing applause. "She will go on doing so."

Mr. Patrick Jenkin yesterday encountered new difficulties on his rate-capping obstacle course when Mr Justice Forbes directed him to release information by tomorrow afternoon to the GLC and Inner London Education Authority.

Mr. Jenkin's refusal to divulge this data which has lain behind increasingly acrimonious exchanges with Labour's front bench, culminated in the embarrassing decision to postpone yesterday's scheduled debate on the rate-capping Orders.

The Department of the Environment officials were understood to be debating last night whether the Divisional Court ruling meant that Mr Jenkin must disclose his whole hand or whether, more probably, he would merely have to hand over published data.

If the GLC and LEA do not get full satisfaction they are standing by for further court action on Monday morning, the day of the rescheduled Commons debate on the rate-capping Orders for the borough and district councils.

Mr. Jenkin was said last night to be feeling "bullish" in spite of the need to postpone the rate-capping debate after he withdrew, amended and resubmitted the rate-capping Orders to take account of late information about the finances of the London borough of Haringey.

more noisily from Republicans, particularly when the Prime Minister endorsed Star Wars research and said "It is our strength and not their goodwill which has brought the Soviet Union to the negotiating table."

Though Mrs Thatcher's legendary saying handbag was out of sight where the US was concerned she implicitly urged cutbacks in the US deficit and said, to only modest applause: "We cannot preach economic adjustment to them (the Third World) and refuse to practice it at home."

Speaking from the simple wooden podium in the House of Representatives where President Reagan delivered his address two weeks ago, Mrs Thatcher applauded the President's decision to "maintain deterrence" through the Star Wars defence and made her first direct appeal for a share of the action in research on the Strategic Defence Initiative.

"I hope our own scientists Mrs Thatcher told an audience which shared in this research," she said, "will share in this research."

Though the repeated bursts of applause were generous they came more often and

Turn to back page, col. 4

NEWS IN BRIEF

Condoms bill vote

A BILL allowing contraceptives to be more freely sold in the Irish Republic was given a second reading in the Irish Dail last night by 83 votes to 80.

Flat deaths

A MOTHER and her daughter found dead in a London council flat died from hypothermia due to carbon monoxide poisoning. Page 2.

Guards training

HUNDREDS of members of the US National Guard have been training alongside British troops in Britain. Page 3.

NHS changes

THE National Health Service is facing another management reorganisation three years after the last one. Page 3.

Libyans gaoled

THREE Libyan students have been gaoled for planting bombs in Manchester. Page 4.

Olivetti rescues Acorn

by Peter Large, Technology Correspondent
The Italian group Olivetti yesterday rescued Acorn, the home computer firm which has supplied about 150,000 of the computers in British schools.

The £18 million refinancing package involves Olivetti taking a 49.3 per cent stake, with the option to pass 50 per cent later.

Acorn, of Cambridge, made a loss of £10.9 million in the last six months of 1984. Dr Alex



IRA cash seized

MORE THAN IR£ 14 million of IRA money in a Dublin bank was handed over to the High Court yesterday, back page. Shadowy balance sheet, page 12; Leader comment, page 12.

The weather

DRY and sunny. Details, back page.

	THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE	100
Austria	35	100
Belgium	35	100
Denmark	35	100
France	35	100
Germany	35	100
Italy	35	100
Netherlands	35	100
Spain	35	100
Switzerland	35	100
UK	35	100

Detain powers for Aids

By Andrew Veltch, Medical Correspondent
Doctors are to be given power to order Aids sufferers into hospital and prevent them leaving, the Health Minister, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, announced yesterday.

He stressed that the regulations which would be introduced in the next few days and take effect in six weeks, would only be used in exceptional cases. "Patients coming forward now have no reason to fear they will be confined in hospital," he said.

Cases in which the powers might be used were described by the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Donald Acheson. They included a sufferer who was vomiting blood and refused to go to hospital, and a patient in hospital who was delirious and attempted to leave.

"We are talking about cases which might never arise, and we have no such case now," Dr. Acheson said.

Mr. Clarke denied that the powers would deter people from volunteering for blood tests. It would be wrong not to be able to deal with a situation in which a highly infectious patient refused to be treated.

Mr. Clarke rejected demands to make Aids a notifiable disease. Specialists were satisfied that all cases were being reported under the present voluntary system and such a measure might scare people away because doctors would have to give names and personal details of patients to the Department of Health.

Alison Ballantine adds: A prisoner suspected of having Aids was suffering from a throat infection, the Wessex regional health authority said. He had medical tests at Southampton hospital after being moved from Cam Hill. Filipeidis to gay 10h, page 17.

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THE Guardian Books page will appear in tomorrow's paper.

Asians take control in local poll

By Michael Parkin
Voters will go to the polls in Bradford today in what is believed to be the first British election in which all three main parties have Asian candidates.

University ward has about 8,000 Asian electors, mostly Muslim, and about 6,000 English. They will choose from Mr. Muhammad Riaz, Labour; Mr. Akhbar Hussain, Conservative; Mr. Muhammad Sarwar (SDP Alliance); and Mr. John Baruch (Conservative).

English voters, who will probably wonder whether this is a private fight in which any

one can join, can be expected to vote the straight party ticket as usual. For the more closely linked Asian community more subtle considerations may also apply.

All three candidates are from the district of Mirpur in Pakistan and Mr. Hussain and Mr. Sarwar lived in the same village.

What has become clear in this ward is that in council elections Asian enthusiasm transcends traditional English party loyalty.

In the last election, Mr. Hishar Qureshi, the Asian SDP candidate, polled 2,388

votes against 1,887 for Mr. M. A. Bhutto, the Asian Labour candidate, with Mr. D. E. Bagley, the English Conservative, getting 821.

The Conservative agent for Bradford, Mr. Richard Hughes-Rowlands, has been surprised by the fervour of this election with meeting attracting attendances of 200 "just like a closely-fought parliamentary election."

Mr. Sarwar, the SDP candidate, said that his main election meeting had also attracted 200 voters, "including at least 200 or 30 English people."

In his final message, Mr. Riaz (Labour) said that Bradford was divided by poverty, not race or religion. Unemployment in University ward was 33 per cent.

Mr. Hussain says a Conservative councillor could do something but the SDP or Labour could not. The Conservatives lead Bradford metropolitan council but do not have an overall majority.

Mr. Sarwar is banking on disillusionment with the Labour and Conservative parties.

Mr. Baruch, who pooled 149 votes last year, called for a Communist vote to end "the horrors of 1985."

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Kent, Scargill and Gostin 'MI5 targets'

ALLEGATIONS that leaders of the CND and the National Council for Civil Liberties had been subjected to surveillance were made by Cathy Massiter, a former MI5 intelligence officer, in a Channel 4 documentary shown from the screen last night.

Another former officer claimed that senior trade unionists had their phones tapped regularly.

Ms Massiter gave the names of leaders who, she said, were scrutinised by MI5 in the 20/20 Vision programme, MI5's Official Secrets, which the IBA ordered should not be shown.

The list included Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, Barbara Egglestone, national organiser of Christian CND, Larry Gostin, general secretary of the NCCL, as well as former general secretary Patricia Hewitt, who is now an adviser to Mr Neil Kinnock and the NCCL's former legal officer Harriet Harman, now a Labour MP.

In 1981, Ms Massiter, who had been recruited from a university library 11 years earlier, said she was put in charge of the surveillance of CND, even though the organisation was taken off the MI5's list of subversive organisations.

Ms Massiter said in the

Allegations by ex-officers of phone taps and surveillance. David Hearst reports



Said to be under the MI5 gaze (from left): Barbara Egglestone, Larry Gostin, Patricia Hewitt, Bruce Kent, Arthur Scargill and Harriet Harman

Channel 4 programme: "It was perceived as more than necessary that we had to be able to answer very precisely whatever questions we were asked about CND and its subversive penetration, which meant that our study had to be perhaps rather closer than it certainly would have been otherwise."

To do this MI5 got one of its agents, Mr Harry Newton, a respected lecturer in trade union law and life-long activist in left-wing political groups, to join CND in 1982. Newton, who died last year,

had been the treasurer of the Institute for Workers' Control, a left-wing think tank supported by prominent trade union officials like Jack Jones and Alex Kitson and had been recruited by MI5 in the 1960s.

Newton filed regular reports about the workings and activities of CND headquarters. Ms Massiter said: "He (Newton) had a strong opinion that Kent might be a crypto-communist. I personally saw no justification for this whatsoever, but that certainly was the view that he expressed."

She said that Newton's reports were entered on MI5 files and the view that CND was controlled by extreme left-wing activists was passed on to Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, even though she found no evidence to support this view.

Confronted by the revelation that Mr Newton was an MI5 agent, and that he told MI5 that Kent was a "crypto-communist", Mr Kent said: "Well they have overpaid him in that case. I am not a crypto-communist. I don't know what crypto means, I'm not a

communist."

Cathy Massiter also alleged that material gathered by MI5 was passed on to a counter-propaganda unit set up by Mr Heseltine in March 1983 to combat the CND's unilateralist line. The unit is known as DS19.

Instructed by her superior, Ms Massiter passed on non-classified information on any extreme left-wing activities of CND leaders. The passing of information from MI5, a security organisation, to DS19, a political body, may be seen as a direct breach of MI5's own code of conduct,

known as the Maxwell Frye directive.

It states that it is essential that "the Security Service should be kept absolutely free from any political bias or influence."

Shortly after DS 19 received MI5's report, Cathy Massiter was told that the MI5 would "consider favourably" an application to tap the phone of a communist target in CND.

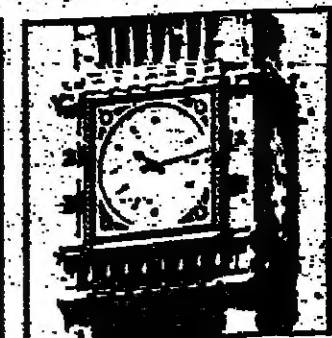
The target chosen was John Cox, vice-president of CND and a member of the Communist Party. From him, MI5 obtained information

about Bruce Kent, Joan Ruddock on "a wide range of topics that were concerning CND at the time." Cathy Massiter questioned whether John Cox posed a subversive threat to the state.

The agent said: "Mick McGahey, a prominent communist and mineworker's leader and a member of the Scottish TUC was subjected to extensive surveillance, including the tapping of his home telephone. This gave rise to an office joke about the girls who had to listen to Mrs McGahey's interminable telephone conversations with friends and relations, but we were able to get information from her chatting about his movements which he himself was careful to conceal."

The MI5 bugged Arthur Scargill's phone during the seventies. The agent said: "Scargill himself would occasionally shout abuse into the phone at the people who were bugging him." Asked whether Scargill's phone was being tapped now, during the miners' strike, Cathy Massiter said: "I would think it very likely, especially in view of his particular history and his known political views."

The programme also alleged that MI5 tapped prominent members of the Fire Brigades Union during the firemen's strike.



David McKie

Waiting, chafing, for the last bus

ON Tuesday night the Commons gave a second reading to the London Regional Transport (Amendment) Bill, a measure designed to make the GLC pay £50 million which it would much rather hang on to over to the London Regional Transport Board.

The bill results from a High Court ruling which said, though presumably in more extensive, and certainly in much more expensive, terms that the GLC was under the money it did not so choose. The Transport Secretary, Mr Ridley, having discovered that his powers under the original act were less copious than he had intended them to be, is now tending this amending bill down the fast lane at speeds well in excess of 70 miles an hour to ensure that his legal reach shall from now on match his grasp.

Tuesday's debate was what we in the trade like to call "wide-ranging." Was the original act a "wide-ranging" act? Was the money £ it did not so choose. The Transport Secretary, Mr Ridley, having discovered that his powers under the original act were less copious than he had intended them to be, is now tending this amending bill down the fast lane at speeds well in excess of 70 miles an hour to ensure that his legal reach shall from now on match his grasp.

Yesterday, as was only to be expected, some philosophical gymnastics. A restful session on rate-capping had been arranged, but then came the news that the

Politics, page 18

Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, had been having trouble with his attitude again. There was to be a recount at Haringey. Rate-capping Orders due to come before the House were to be amended. A vote on the subject was to be held. A vote on the subject was to be held. A vote on the subject was to be held.

Instead, the Commons was offered a further day's transaction with Mr Ridley's bill. A day that, prospectively, adopted the same attitude as the Commons with its collective sanity rebuffed.

For a full three hours a succession of Members declared that to rush the remaining stages of the bill through the House in that way was an affront to Parliament, a threat to democracy, an assault on decent human values and in general the sort of behaviour that we expect nowadays only from Oxford University.

Mr Enoch Powell (Conservative, South Down) indicated, though in graver and more constitutional terms, that if the House let the Government get away with this wheeze, which effectively precluded the tabling of amendments for the report stage, the Government would very soon be in a position to pass a bill. Mr Tam Dalyell (Labour, Lanarkshire) contrasted the sums at stake in the Haringey case with the far greater sums now being committed to the building of an airport somewhere or other outside his constituency.

Mr Harry Cohen (Labour, Hackney North) complained that he was being rushed into a final judgment on the bill without even having the time to measure the effect of Mr Ridley's speech on Tuesday night on the late-night garage. Mr Brian Sedgemoor (Labour, Hackney South) noted that the Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, had for some time been listening to the debate from the back benches. Why was he there? If there, why was he on the back bench and not the front?

Mr Dennis Skinner (Labour, Bolsover) said the Prime Minister was not on the front bench, and not on the back bench either, was she on holiday? He observed that the Speaker had been present throughout — a clear sign, he suggested, of the gravity of this debate. Since in normal circumstances Mr Weatherill could not have been expected to have gone for his tea.

The Speaker, who was observed to be looking very much like he would very much like to have gone for his tea. But it was not his well after seven that he gave his chance to do so.

Cottesloe may be saved by GLC

By Nicholas de Jongh, Arts Correspondent

THE GREATER London Council's arts committee plans to rescue the National Theatre's Cottesloe auditorium from closure with a £375,000 grant. However, it will only be able to do so if the council's arts budget remains intact despite rate-capping. Only a few weeks ago the GLC's arts committee chairman, Mr Peter Pitt, predicted that rate-capping might prevent the council giving out any arts grants in 1985-86.

But the GLC now seems far more hopeful of having sufficient money available for the arts. It has brought a series of court actions in an attempt to force the Government to divulge its methods of fixing rate limits and if it succeeds, would challenge the methods as unreasonable. Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, announced earlier this month that the Cottesloe would have to close in April because of the 1.5 per cent increase in the Arts Council grant. Sir Peter had said that he needed at least £1.1 million more.

The GLC arts committee said yesterday that, if approved, the GLC grant would enable the Cottesloe to reopen in the summer — as soon as the National would be able to rebuild its programme.

Sir Peter has said that the Cottesloe costs £750,000 a year to run, with maximum box office earnings of £250,000. Colin Brown adds: The shadow arts minister, Mr Norman Buchan, last night called on the Arts Council to seek an urgent meeting with the Arts Minister to demand the Government's response to the GLC's attempt to save the Cottesloe.

Gas checks made on London flats where mother and children died in the cold

By Susan Tubbett

A mother and her 11-year-old daughter who died of hypothermia in their council maisonette on Friday, suffered carbon monoxide poisoning, Southwark coroner's court, London, was told yesterday.

The dead woman's 15-year-old son died in hospital of a brain haemorrhage two days later.

Southwark council engineers and South-eastern Gas Board officials were last night investigating all the flats on the Duddingston Grove estate.

Police and gas board officials inquiring into the deaths of Ms Helen Hurst, aged 31, and her two children, Natasha, aged 11, and Michael, aged 13, yesterday identified a defective gas boiler as the source of the carbon monoxide fumes.

Detective Chief Inspector Alec Ross, leading the inquiry, said the fault in the boiler was not caused by damage.

Professor Hugh Johnson, a Home Office pathologist, told the coroner's court that traces of carbon monoxide were found in the bodies of Helen Hurst and her daughter. There were no traces of carbon monoxide in Michael's blood, but his body might have dispersed it before he died. More tests are to be carried out on the three.

Professor Johnson told the deputy coroner, Dr David Foster: "The fact that three people should be overcome in one place is very suggestive of inhalation of carbon monoxide."

He gathered from the police that there were several possible sources of gas — the heating system, a gas fire, or paraffin heaters. But there was still a great deal of investigation to be done before any conclusion could be reached. The inquiry was adjourned until March 21.

The small court at Southwark was filled with members of the Hurst family, their friends, and representatives of the local residents' association, of which Ms Hurst was the secretary.

The association handed out leaflets expressing concern about the three deaths and asking for its views to be investigated.

Southwark council said yesterday that it was of engineers from its technical services division was checking every gas central heating installation on the Duddingston Grove estate.

The leader of the council, Mr Tony Ritchie, said: "Although police investigations have not been completed and it is too early to say what caused the poisoning, I am not prepared to take any chances with people's lives."

Neighbours protested to the council's office before the hearing that damaged gas vents on the top floor of the block of flats had caused poisonous fumes to leak into Ms Hurst's maisonette. They did not believe that the three could have died from the cold alone.



The children who died: Michael (left) and Natasha

Miners lift picket to fight fires at doomed pit

By Jean Stead and Paul Heyland

The miners lifted their picket at the doomed Frances colliery in Fife yesterday to allow 10 pit deputies to make safety inspections. Frances, formerly a profit-making pit, faces permanent closure after underground fires shut down its only face earlier this month.

A coal board spokesman said the deputies, members of Naacods, were needed to make regular inspections to ensure

fire did not break out again, even though the pit was closed and the single face was now sealed with concrete.

But at neighbouring Seashell colliery, pickets are still discouraging Naacods supervisors from going into the pit where underground fire has seriously damaged the most important face. Only seven of the 21 deputies who tried to go in yesterday, got past the picket line, according to the Scottish NCB.

In South Wales, Dr Kim Howells has been restored as the area spokesman of the NUM after a change of heart by the executive which last week had ordered that other senior officials should handle important press statements.

Dr Howells, the area research officer for the NUM, was effectively silenced after he made a statement about a possible return to work without a settlement. The miners' president, Mr

Arthur Scargill, was reported to have been furious with Dr Howells who on previous occasions has openly criticised the national leadership.

Working miners in Staffordshire yesterday announced that they are taking the Midlands NUM to court in a dispute over accounts. They want to inspect union books to see if members' subscriptions have been used illegally to support the miners' strike in the Midlands.

Far left groups 'get public cash'

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

LABOUR and Conservative controlled councils are funding voluntary groups which engage in "extreme left-wing activities" according to a pamphlet published yesterday by the right-wing Tory think-tank, the Centre for Policy Studies.

It suggests new laws to forbid the payment of grants to political bodies and ensure that voluntary groups raise at least a quarter of their funds from non-public sources.

The pamphlet identifies a phenomenon which it describes as Quagros (quasi-autonomous local government organisations) which are independent of councils but rely on them for support. It finds these Quagros more pernicious than the more popularly-known Quagros, because they are less accountable for their use of public funds.

Voluntary bodies today enjoy an aggregate annual income of almost £10 billion, a sum which is increasing fast. But the term voluntary is a misnomer. Very few of the bodies rely solely upon voluntary contributions, even fewer upon voluntary workers, says the report, the authors of which include Mr Terence Gorman, a Westminster city councillor, and Mr Cyril Taylor, the deputy leader of the GLC Tory group.

The report claims that the Government is guilty of complicity. "Whitehall departments 'all release large funds to organisations who have been given the status of Quagros by local authorities.'"

The report is being submitted to the Government's inquiry into local authority ethics under Mr David Wedderburn, QC. "Quagros Just Grow: political bodies in voluntary clothing," by Terence Gorman, Barbara Robson, Bernard Sharpe and Cyril Taylor. Centre for Policy Studies. Price £3.90.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Staff agree to Vauxhall 6pc offer

VAUXHALL'S 5,000 white collar workers have voted to accept a 6 per cent pay rise, in contrast to the 8 to 14 per cent increase awarded to the company's 15,000 manual workers last November after a two week strike.

The company's main staff unions said that it was the first time for years that their members have received a smaller increase.

The deal also includes further negotiations on a new salary structure.

Manual workers were awarded a higher increase because they accepted revised working conditions as part of the agreement.

Man counts cost of motoring joys

A MAN who motored into the record books admitting 81 offences with four different cars was fined a total of £250 and banned from driving for five years by a court at Bridgend yesterday.

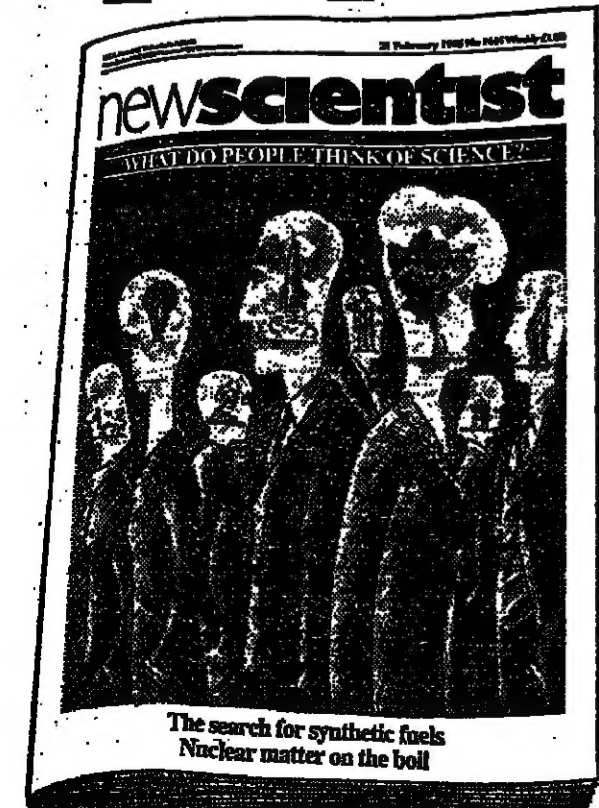
Patrick Goldsmith, 26, of Cefn Glas, mid-Glamorgan, was stopped 17 times for offences including having no insurance. Describing his client's fascination for cars, Mr Roy Snape, defending, said: "Some people have it for females. But there are many young men who seem to regard a motor car as almost the be-all and end-all of life."

Cottage damaged in arson attack

THE hundredth arson attack since the campaign against second homes in Wales began five years ago was being investigated by police yesterday.

Forensic scientists were called in to examine a detached 150-year-old stone cottage at Beddgelert in Snowdonia, badly damaged by flames during the night. The owner, a dentist, lives at Uxbridge, Middlesex.

Science: What do people think?



A survey in this week's New Scientist shows that if the government wants to make itself popular with its electorate, it should spend more money on research and make Britain a world leader in science.

PLUS: The search for synthetic fuels. And nuclear matter on the boil.

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newscientist
Every Thursday

Greenham woman 'faces Secrets Act charge'

By Paul Brown

A research associate at the University of Wales has been told that she may be charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Act after entering Greenham Common air base on an American bus.

Dr Carol Westall, aged 30, was released on police bail on Tuesday after being questioned by Ministry of Defence detectives. She entered the base while it was on a black alert — an exercise in which nuclear and chemical attacks are regarded as imminent.

She says she climbed on to the bus through an open emergency door and passed through the main gate without being detected. She said she had been taking photographs outside the base of Americans in white radiation suits and gas masks. She did not use the camera inside the base and removed the film which, she claims, was subsequently confiscated.

An American serviceman eventually saw Dr Westall in the bus. She says she was detained and, after 30 minutes, handed over to the Ministry of Defence police.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that Dr Westall had not been charged, but confirmed that an alleged offence under the Official Secrets Act was being investigated.

In London yesterday four people were arrested outside the Ministry of Defence after holding an Ash Wednesday service. Three were later released after a caution and a fourth was charged with obstructing a Christian CND handover of a 12,000 signature petition in at Downing Street, calling for the abandonment of Trident nuclear missiles.

The guidelines note that there are more informal ways of dealing with some juveniles that a formal caution, which is recorded by the police and included in a juvenile's record at any subsequent court hearing.

Advice on police cautions

By Malcolm Dean

The Home Office yesterday released new guidelines on police cautions designed to increase their use, particularly with juvenile offenders.

The guidelines, which have been sent to all chief constables, are also intended to create a common approach by all 43 police forces. At present there is a widespread disparity in the cautioning procedure, with some forces using cautions twice as frequently as others.

Ministers at the Home Office are concerned that there

should be no further increase in the proportion of juvenile offenders who receive custodial sentences from the courts.

One way of diverting some juveniles from the criminal justice system is to increase the use of cautioning. The guidelines note that "there is no rule in law that suspected offenders must be prosecuted."

The guidelines note that there are more informal ways of dealing with some juveniles that a formal caution, which is recorded by the police and included in a juvenile's record at any subsequent court hearing.

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HOME NEWS

MoD staff briefed at American Embassy on how to release details of presence

Hundreds of US National Guard training in UK army exercises

By Gareth Parry

Hundreds of members of the United States National Guard have been training in Britain alongside British troops.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the National Guardsmen are in Britain as part of a regular military exchange programme. But their presence has received no publicity because it is recognised by Whitehall and the Pentagon as a sensitive issue.

This is because the National Guard, which is used in peacetime to handle a variety of national emergencies, including civil disturbances, is largely remembered in Britain for its part in quelling the student revolt at Kent State University in Ohio, which resulted in the deaths of four students who were demonstrating against US intervention in Cambodia.

More than 800 guardsmen took part in exercises with British troops at various locations throughout England and Wales last year. The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that another 350 would arrive this year, although the Pentagon said that at least 800 more would come.

Mr John Stanley, minister for the armed forces, said in a written reply to Mrs Ann Clwyd, Labour MP for Cynon Valley, last Friday, that 840 of the Americans took part in British exercises last year.

It is understood that after Mr Stanley's answer senior MoD staff were given a confidential briefing by military attaché personnel from the American Embassy in London. The object of the meeting was to decide how best to present details of the National Guard's presence in Britain.

The National Guard is similar to that of the regular army in that it acts as a reserve to the regular army in times of war. But in peacetime, the National Guard deals with a variety of national emergencies, such as weather disasters. Unlike the Territorials, however, it is also used in civil disturbances such as industrial disputes or student revolts. In recent years, for example, National Guardsmen stepped in when supplies were stopped by a national lorry drivers' strike. They also intervened during a fishermen's strike.

In answer to another question from Mrs Clwyd, Mr Stanley said: "It is envisaged that US National Guardsmen will participate in exercises undertaken by the National Guard in Britain."

"I believe that Parliament has a right to such information, although in my experience the Ministry of Defence refuses to give information on the grounds that it would endanger national security," said Mrs Clwyd, who has also been a Euro-MP. I have in the past found that questions which

were avoided in London were and these included such vital topics as Nato policy."

The first suggestion that the National Guard might have a presence in Britain came early last year, when Mr Ian Richard, a Swansea Valley councillor, was told by a police friend that there were American troops in the area.

Mr Richard contacted his MP, Mr Gareth Wardell, Labour MP for Gower, who then asked a question in the Commons about the Americans and was told on June 22 that 50 Guardsmen were in Britain. But the written answer went largely unnoticed until fresh concern was generated by the peace movement protests at Molesworth, the proposed cruise missile site in Cambridgeshire. Mr Richard again raised the issue of the National Guard, this time with CND. Mr Clwyd then asked for updated information.

The National Guard consists of an army section of 450,000, and an air force section of 111,000. It is manned by officers and senior NCOs, many of whom are Vietnamese veterans with combat experience. The men train one weekend a month. They are equipped with the same weapons and kit available to regular US forces.

La-Col Daniel Donahue, chief of public affairs at National Guard H Q in Washington, said yesterday: "The National Guard's state mission is to respond to national emergencies, which have in the past included weather disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes, and blizzards."

"They will also deal with emergencies which come from labour disputes, when the governor of a county considers all his normal resources. This does not, however, mean trike-breaking. They simply take over the running of essential services affected by a labour dispute. In times of war they would, of course, merge with the regular forces."

The National Guard's total strength of 561,000 men compares with the 70,000 of Britain's Territorial Army, which has no comparable civil role.

The MoD said yesterday: "The training exercises conducted for the National Guard in Britain are purely basic training, and quite fundamental weapons training. They've been coming since 1952, and 10 or 12 went over to West Germany on Operation Lionheart last year. It's a reciprocal arrangement with the TA."

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, said: "The revelation that hundreds of these troops are secretly in Britain is astounding, and I think we are entitled to a full and detailed explanation as to their role."



National Guardsmen going through their paces in Miami

NHS faces its second upheaval in three years

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

The National Health Service faces yet another management reorganisation, within three years of the creation of over 200 district health authorities in England and Wales.

Proposals put to Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, by the first batch of district health authorities wanting to appoint new "unit managers," show that a number want to reorganise health services in their areas.

They involve the abolition of jobs created only three years ago and the merging of services which have yet to settle down from the last reorganisation.

The plans mean the creation of 2,700 new jobs under the 300 new district and regional general managers now being appointed by Mr Fowler in the recommendation of a management inquiry headed by Mr Roy Griffiths, the general manager of Sainsbury's.

Some authorities want to sweep away staff structures and appoint people on short-term contracts.

The most vulnerable post is that of chief nursing officer — created in Sir Keith Joseph's reorganisation of 1974 and redesignated by Mr Fowler in 1982.

Some areas are to be merged to help to comply with circulars just issued by Mr Fowler asking for further cuts in administrative costs. The most radical proposals are

emerging from the Trent region — which set the pace last year by appointing all its district general managers in advance of the rest of the country.

District health authority plans in North Derbyshire propose merging community and acute services under a new unit manager and putting all geriatric and psychiatric services under another unit. The remaining services will be coordinated under one unit to serve the High Peak area.

The post of chief nursing officer will be abolished and nursing advice merged in a new department to cover consumer services and research.

Mr John Newton, the new district general manager for North Derbyshire, said yesterday: "The plans would involve streamlining services, abolishing many committees, and creating a new line of authority in the district."

Proposals to streamline services have also been put forward by South Lincolnshire, Leeds (Western), and Portsmouth health authorities. South Lincolnshire plans to merge the management of hospitals for the mentally ill and handicapped, and to review the future of nursing management services.

The plans have been condemned by the Confederation of Health Service Employees, which has accused North Derbyshire of putting the nursing profession at risk. The Royal College of Nurs-

ing has protested to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, about nurses being ignored for new jobs as district managers.

The plans are also expected to heighten opposition from the all-party Commons Social Services Committee, which has urged ministers not to proceed with the creation of unit managers for fear of disrupting the service.

Court invokes Contempt Act

A Torbay court invoked the 1981 Contempt Act yesterday to prevent details being made public of defendants in an alleged multi-million pound international drugs smuggling conspiracy based in Torquay.

One of the 17 defendants, a 28-year-old roofing contractor, Tony Strange, asked for press reporting restrictions to be lifted during committal proceedings against him. Strange, of Teignmouth Road, Torquay, has made a statement but the county prosecutor made an application under the 1981 act that, even though reporting restrictions had been lifted, other defendants might not be identified for fear that it would prejudice their trial.

Strange was committed for trial at Exeter Crown Court, charged with conspiracy to import controlled drugs into Holland.

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Date of Birth Day Month Year

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Home Office proposes extradition law reform

By Malcolm Dean

New proposals to make it easier for foreign states to extradite criminal suspects from the UK were set out in a Home Office green paper yesterday.

The changes would align British proceedings more closely to international extradition law. At present, extradition from the UK as in domestic cases where prima facie evidence has to be brought against the alleged criminal. The Government is not committed to the proposals.

About one third of all extradition applications to Britain fail because of the prima facie requirement. The green paper notes that the inherent difficulties of the British procedure could encourage criminals to seek refuge in the UK. "This damages the rule of law both in this country and abroad," it says.

With the exception of Malta, Britain is the only state in the 21-member Council of Europe which has not signed the European convention on extradition.

The consultative document suggests that the British custom causes problems for countries with different legal systems. It could be unfair to make the procedure reflect a full English criminal trial. The extradition request, often came

earlier in an investigation of a crime and the absence of the fugitive could be a handicap.

The advantages of retaining the present system are set out, including the need to ensure equality of treatment for all persons who come before British courts. The paper adds, however, that the committal procedure is already alien to Scots law.

It suggests ad hoc extradition for states without sufficient traffic to justify a treaty. This is a possible option for dealing with the large number of states where no treaty exists.

The new Child Abduction Act was used possibly for the first time yesterday when a warrant for the arrest of a separated father, who fled to the United States with his four-year-old daughter last December, was issued by Newbury magistrates.

The application was made by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Under the act, the American authorities should begin extradition proceedings leading to the return of the man to face trial at Reading crown court. One legal complication, however, is that although both parents are British the daughter was born in the US and is thus an American citizen.

Extradition, Cmnd 9421, Stationery Office, £3.50, net.

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HOME NEWS

'Fanatics fashion' of violence, says judge

Three Libyans gaoled for bombing 'outrage'

By Tom Sharatt

Three Libyan students were given five and twelve years at Manchester Crown Court yesterday after being found guilty of planting bombs in Manchester last March. A fourth student was cleared of conspiracy and released.

Sentencing the three, Mr Justice Cantley said: "In these days there is a fashion among fanatics and all sorts of odd people to try to impose their views on others by lethal processes such as bombings. It is a lamentable fact that any one of these three or more — a minority — can inflict this kind of outrage on the general public."

Khalid Mansour, aged 23, of Delaunays Road, Crumpsall, Manchester, was gaoled for 12 years and ordered to be deported on completion of sentence. Mohammed Shalabak, 25, of Dickinson Road, Longsight, Manchester, was gaoled for six years and ordered to be deported on completion of sentence. Mansour and Shalabak were convicted unanimously, and Shalabak by majority verdicts.

of conspiring between November 1 1983 and March 12 1984 to cause an explosion or explosions, and of causing an explosion in Manchester on March 11. All three had denied the charges.

Abd al-Salam Shwayb, aged 16, of Egmont Street, Chorlton, Manchester, who denied a charge of conspiracy alone, was acquitted.

During the 13-day trial the court heard of a group of Libyan students who supported Colonel Gaddafi planning a campaign against other Libyans in Manchester who opposed the regime. A first witness alleged to have been involved, Khalid Tantouch, was said to have left Britain shortly before the bombs were planted, having been refused permission to remain.

Two bombs exploded early on March 11 at a house in Alness Road, Whalley Range, where Libyans lived in flats. The first destroyed a car and the second damaged a flat and injured the occupants, a young couple and their baby.

Mansour, alleged to have been the ringleader, was said to have planted one of the bombs on the window sill of the flat. The judge told him: "You are a person of ability, and it might have been a great deal worse for all the victims if you had had Tantouch with you instead of having to recruit persons who were not particularly keen on encouraging you in what you wanted to do."

Abouz, who was alleged to have planted the bomb under the car, was described by his counsel Mr William Howard, QC, as having been in fear throughout the trial.

The judge told Abouz: "I think you were under some pressure, and I think you have been under some pressure ever since."

Shalabak said he had driven Mansour and Abouz to Alness Road, where they were told by the judge: "You didn't plant the bombs, and I have heard things about you which lead me to suppose you are not irredeemably a bad person who does this kind of thing."

The judge made no order about the possible deportation of Abouz and Shalabak, saying he would let the Home Office decide.

deputy secretary-general, said: "The more serious problem arises from those who simply cannot manage their money."

The report admits that a relaxation of lending criteria by members as available funds and competition for mortgage applicants have increased may be another reason for the upward trend in arrears. More societies are now offering 100 per cent mortgages, and mortgages to people with comparatively low incomes.

Changes in mortgage rates have no noticeable effect on arrears or possessions. The cost to the societies of arrears never repaid, even after repossession, was less than £2 million in 1983, the latest available figure, out of a total mortgage portfolio of £87 million. Handling arrears cases however cost £13 million in that year, roughly equivalent to employing 1,500 building society staff.

He also wanted to see the "adversary attitude to the building society," indicated by branches' offers to "negotiate" on behalf of borrowers, replaced by the development of money advice agencies. People with repayment problems should turn to their building society first. "A building society has no wish to take possession proceedings, as this is contrary to its objective of helping people into home ownership," says the report.

Mr Vella — who is not on trial — and three other men were secretly photographed as they left the station in a white Rover car.

One of the party was 29-year-old Paul Kavanagh, who, with Thomas Quigley, also 29, and from Belfast, is on trial. They are accused between them of 10 terrorist offences, including three murders.

They are said to have been members of a provisional IRA unit in a month-long series of bomb attacks in London in the autumn of 1981.

They are charged with murdering Mrs. Nora Field, 59, and John Breslin, 18, victims of a mail bomb blast outside Chelsea barracks on October 10, and explosives expert, Mr. Kenneth Howorth, blown up while defusing a bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar on October 26.

The Rover eventually parked in a layby on the A611 in Annesley Forest. "I saw that Vella was already out of the vehicle," Det Insp. Dwyer said. Kavanagh and another man described as "B" had also got out. "There was snow on the ground and Mr. Vella was throwing a snowball."

The three men walked in the direction of the wood and were seen by a witness. The jury has heard that in the forest police later seized two buried plastic fermentation bins containing 113lb of gelignite. On the same day Kavanagh and the others led the surveillance team to Saley Forest, Northamptonshire, where another cache, described as a "comprehensive collection of terrorist hardware," was also recovered.

The trial continues today.

The RSPCA reported record figures yesterday for the number of calls they received from the public last year — over a million — and for the number of convictions they secured in cases of cruelty to animals.

The society, funded entirely from public donations, investigated over 47,000 complaints last year, and in 1,900 cases, people were successfully prosecuted. Complaints have gone up by over 7,000 on the previous year, and convictions by 552.

A RSPCA spokesman, Mr. Mike Smithson, said: "We want to demonstrate as the oldest animal welfare organisation in the world how to achieve results by acting within the law."

Mr. Charles Marshall, chief officer of the RSPCA inspectorate, said that the record figures reflected a combination of more cruelty and neglect of animals by the general public and greater efficiency, combined with modern radio equipment, on the part of the inspectors.

Particular concern was expressed about the trapping of wild birds which are sold to collectors here and abroad. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, birds, nests and eggs are protected. "The message to the British public is leave them alone," said Mr. Michael Hartley, regional superintendent for the Midlands.

Inspector Basil Farrant, who works in south London, said: "I believe the catching of wild birds is reaching epidemic proportions in this country. There is a great deal of unemployment. People are beginning to see that there is money in it. We are trying to throw open the whole thing."

Seven protesters from the Animal Aid group chained themselves to badger traps, blocking the main entrance to Ministry of Agriculture offices in Exeter yesterday. They were protesting at Ministry slaughter of badgers.

Several men are to appear in court after the discovery of £500 notes with a face value of around £300,000 — in a raid on a caravan park in Leicester.



Hammer blows... Defiant squatters can only watch as their dream is shattered by a bulldozer and a council bailiff, below



Dream ends for squatters

BULLDOZERS yesterday began to flatten Britain's biggest squat — 70 Victorian terraced houses in Argyle Street, Norwich. The bulldozers were accompanied by 100 police officers and council bailiffs. But they met no resistance.

Five years ago the first of 200 squatters moved into the condemned houses with the object of setting up an alternative society. They painted houses, lamp posts and even the road surface in vivid colours. They formed the Street Housing Co-operative and persuaded Norwich City Council to license the squat, with rents of £1 a week.

But many of the original settlers drifted away. Hell's Angels, drop-outs and criminals moved in. Peace gave way to violence. Rent collectors were threatened, drugs were sold. When the council obtained possession orders against the remaining squatters, there was talk of armed resistance. Police last week seized weapons including air rifles, pistols, axes, a sword and a crossbow.

But only a handful of squatters stayed on to watch the demolition of their dream. The city council has offered to rehouse the displaced in a disused warehouse. The street will be rebuilt as council houses and flats at a cost of £1 million.

MPs chided for doubts on claim to Falklands

By Paul Keel

An all-party Commons committee was taken to task by the Government yesterday for expressing doubts about Britain's historical claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

In a response published by the Foreign Office the Government said that it regretted the reluctance of the foreign affairs committee to reach "a categorical conclusion on the legal validity of Britain's title to the islands."

The committee said in December last year that the historical and legal evidence relating to Britain's right to sovereignty involved areas of such uncertainty that its members were disinclined to pronounce judgement on the conflicting claims with Argentina.

The Government demonstrated yesterday however that it was in no such doubt. "The Government's position on sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has been made clear on numerous occasions. The Falkland Islands are British territory," the Foreign Office paper stated unequivocally.

It continued: "Britain's title is derived from early settlement, reinforced by formal claims in the name of the Crown and completed by open, continuous, effective and peaceful possession, occupation and administration of the islands since 1833 (save for the 10 weeks of forcible Argentine occupation in 1833)."

"The exercise of sovereignty by the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands has furthermore, consistently been shown to accord with the wishes of the islanders expressed through their democratically elected representatives."

The Government said it also found surprising the committee's argument that confidence in the British title was belied by the fact that these were negotiating with Argentina over the islands since 1967 and 1982, and by doubts expressed by officials during the first half of this century.

"That successive British governments were prepared to seek a negotiated resolution of our differences with the government of Argentina over the islands should not be taken as a reflection of any doubts about British title."

"And it is hardly surprising that with a subject as complicated as the history of the Falkland Islands, differing and in some cases conflicting views on the question of sovereignty should in the past have been expressed from time to time by officials."

The Government took the opportunity to reiterate its desire to persevere with "constructive and realistic policies comprising resolute fulfilment of our commitment to the Falkland Islands coupled with patient efforts to promote better relations between Britain and Argentina."

But it declined to accept the committee's recommendation that Britain should "take the strongest possible position around the islands if and when Argentina formally announced the end of hostilities over the Falklands."

"A formal declaration by Argentina of a definite cessation of hostilities would have a positive impact on our position. It could not, however, be the sole trigger for action over the protective rank," the government statement said.

Court withdraws ban on anti-cruise protesters

By Stephen Cook

Wiltshire Police yesterday abandoned an attempt to prevent people arrested while demonstrating against United States cruise missile exercises on Salisbury Plain from re-entering the county before their court hearings.

No action was taken yesterday against four women who broke the bail condition. Magistrates last week told them not to re-enter Wiltshire until March. They created the order and were re-arrested on Tuesday when the missile launchers were returning to Greenham Common.

Mr. Michael Jeary, prosecuting, told a specially convened court in Devizes police station that the police no longer wanted the bail condition because the cruise exercise was over.

The four — Blue Joyce, Dawn Russell, Linda Moody, and Victoria One — were granted unconditional bail.

A 58th person accused of trespassing under the 1872 Military Lands Act, Ann Hodgson, complained about being kept in a cell overnight. The offence carries a maximum fine of £5. All five gave their address as the peace camp.

Three priests were detained yesterday by Ministry of Defence police, after scaling a 7 foot high security fence at the American air base at Wiltshire. The three, including two Canon bridge deans, were taken for questioning along with four members of Christian CND. They had intended holding a service on the main runway.

Firemen in Dorset have had to contend with an outbreak of health fires throughout the county, the result of frost taking hold of the ground and causing tinder-dry conditions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robbery retrial ordered

THE judge in the Old Bailey yesterday ordered a retrial of a £6 million Security Express robbery. His Honour Judge Lowry, QC, yesterday ordered a retrial on the third day of the hearing after a legal problem arose, writes Paul Keel.

The three, John Leonard Knight, aged 47, a garage owner, of Wheatthampstead, Hertfordshire, Terence George Perkins, aged 38, a property developer, of Enfield, Middlesex, and William John Fickson, aged 40, a market trader, of the City of London, have all denied stealing the cash from the company's security depot near Liverpool Street station in London, on Easter Monday, 1983. The retrial will begin today.

Firebomb attack on councillor

POLICE in Liverpool yesterday hunting a fire-bomber who attacked the home of a Liverpool councillor, Mr. Stephen Radford, in Fulbrook, 4 in Liverpool. The firebomb, a petrol-filled milk bottle, was hurled through the lounge window of Liberal councillor Mr. Radford, on Tuesday night.

Mr. Radford, who managed to extinguish the flames, was uninjured in the incident, described later by Det-Sup Keith Botherham as "very serious."

Hospital's 100th heart transplant

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl yesterday became the hundredth patient to receive a heart transplant at Papworth hospital, Cambridge, in a three and a half hour operation.

Mr. John Edwards, spokesman for the heart transplant team, said: "She is breathing on her own without the aid of a ventilator. Her new heart works well and she has told her doctors she feels brilliant."

MoD confirms toxic leak claim

THE Ministry of Defence yesterday confirmed a CND claim that there has been an incident involving beryllium powder, a toxic material, at the Llanishannon Ordnance Factory in Cardiff last month. The MoD had earlier denied all knowledge of the incident, writes Paul Heyland.

Arrests at Welsh language protest

THE work of 200 civil servants, including Customs and Excise staff, was disrupted for several hours yesterday afternoon when offices at Colwyn Bay were occupied by members of the Welsh Language Society campaigning for the establishment of a Welsh language education development body.

Fumes victims in hospital

Seven people, including four children, were treated in hospital yesterday after apparently being overcome by fumes during the night at their Southampton home.

Gas board officials began an investigation of the heating system at the house in Chilworth.

Unemployment takes its toll on mortgages

By Rosemary Collins

Mortgage arrears are rising because of unemployment and falling house prices, according to a survey by the Mortgage Lenders' Association said yesterday.

In the first half of 1984 the societies took possession of 5,320 properties. At that time there were 33,000 loans, 0.6 per cent of the total, more than six months in arrears. Previous high levels of mortgage arrears had occurred in 1970 and 1975 and the association points out that a cyclical pattern has emerged since the figures were first collected in their present form in 1969.

The miners' strike has had only a small impact on the national statistics because of the relatively small number of borrowers involved. Individually, however, they have suffered an extremely severe reduction in income.

Marriage breakdown, which has occurred in an estimated 30 per cent of possession cases, is not happening significantly more often and is therefore not responsible for the rising numbers of arrears.

The association attributes this to rising unemployment and domestic cash mismanagement. "The incidence of wilful refusal to pay is very small," Mr. Mark Boleat, the societies' deputy secretary-general, said.

Judge puts ban on Kissagram

A KISSAGRAM girl was used to deliver an allegedly libellous poem to a London finance company, the Court of Appeal heard yesterday.

Two appeal judges granted NH Finance (Pleasants) Ltd. a temporary injunction banning further publication of the alleged libel.

The order was against Mr. Eamonn O'Biggins, of Belgrave, London, and Mr. Shane Roe, who claim that the girl was paid £75,000 for introducing them to a multi-million pound property deal with the Church Commissioners.

Lord Justice Robert Goff said: "The girl, who was Kissagram girls arrived at the company's premises. They took their coats off, revealing they were wearing very little underwear, and recited a poem which intimates, in terms, that the company are acting in a manner described as 'Shylock'." The judge said there was an innuendo that the company was withholding its legal obligations.

A reporter and a photographer from a national newspaper had arrived at the same time as the Kissagram, he said. The company feared that the same thing would happen at the premises of the Church Commissioners later in the day, when the parties were due to complete the sale of certain church properties to NH Finance.

Libel damages 'too high,' say judges

An award of £250,000 "exemplary" damages against the News of the World in favour of 10 policemen, who were falsely libelled in a front page story of being rapists, was inordinately high, Lord Justice Stephenson said yesterday in the Appeal Court.

"I cannot myself see how 12 reasonable men and women could have thought it reasonable to impose so heavy a penalty, even on the proprietors and publishers of a newspaper with an immense circulation in order to mark public disapproval of their conduct," he said.

Undercover team's game of cat and mouse 'led to IRA explosives haul'

An Irishman casually played snookers, unaware that he was under the gaze of undercover police and that he had led them to a big IRA explosives cache, an Old Bailey jury heard yesterday.

Mr. Nathaniel Vella, aged 30, had been followed from London to snow-covered Annesley Forest, Nottinghamshire, on January 17 last year said Detective Inspector Matthew Dwyer of Scotland Yard's Special Branch.

He was one of the targets in a game of cat and mouse which began when he boarded an early morning train at Euston in London for Northampton.

Detective Inspector Dwyer, heading the surveillance operation, discreetly followed Mr. Vella when he travelled by underground from Euston to Epsom. There other officers took up the trail and by the time Mr. Vella arrived at Northampton station, Detective Inspector Dwyer was sitting outside at the wheel of an unmarked police car.

Mr. Vella — who is not on trial — and three other men were secretly photographed as they left the station in a white Rover car.

One of the party was 29-year-old Paul Kavanagh, who, with Thomas Quigley, also 29, and from Belfast, is on trial. They are accused between them of 10 terrorist offences, including three murders.

They are said to have been members of a provisional IRA unit in a month-long series of bomb attacks in London in the autumn of 1981.

They are charged with murdering Mrs. Nora Field, 59, and John Breslin, 18, victims of a mail bomb blast outside Chelsea barracks on October 10, and explosives expert, Mr. Kenneth Howorth, blown up while defusing a bomb in an Oxford Street Wimpy bar on October 26.

Prosecution 'success' by RSPCA

By Sarah Boseley

The RSPCA reported record figures yesterday for the number of calls they received from the public last year — over a million — and for the number of convictions they secured in cases of cruelty to animals.

The society, funded entirely from public donations, investigated over 47,000 complaints last year, and in 1,900 cases, people were successfully prosecuted. Complaints have gone up by over 7,000 on the previous year, and convictions by 552.

A RSPCA spokesman, Mr. Mike Smithson, said: "We want to demonstrate as the oldest animal welfare organisation in the world how to achieve results by acting within the law."

Mr. Charles Marshall, chief officer of the RSPCA inspectorate, said that the record figures reflected a combination of more cruelty and neglect of animals by the general public and greater efficiency, combined with modern radio equipment, on the part of the inspectors.

Particular concern was expressed about the trapping of wild birds which are sold to collectors here and abroad. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, birds, nests and eggs are protected. "The message to the British public is leave them alone," said Mr. Michael Hartley, regional superintendent for the Midlands.

Inspector Basil Farrant, who works in south London, said: "I believe the catching of wild birds is reaching epidemic proportions in this country. There is a great deal of unemployment. People are beginning to see that there is money in it. We are trying to throw open the whole thing."

Seven protesters from the Animal Aid group chained themselves to badger traps, blocking the main entrance to Ministry of Agriculture offices in Exeter yesterday. They were protesting at Ministry slaughter of badgers.

Several men are to appear in court after the discovery of £500 notes with a face value of around £300,000 — in a raid on a caravan park in Leicester.

Sizewell safety cost

By Roger Milne

The Central Electricity Generating Board claimed yesterday that clearing outstanding safety issues would only add a further £4 million to the cost of Sizewell B, the pressurised water reactor (PWR) planned for the Suffolk coast.

The board said this forecast on the second day of its lengthy closing submission on the safety of the PWR at the hearing at the Snape Maltings.

Lord Silcock, QC, for the board, told the public inquiry that the 19 safety issues still unresolved between the board and the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (NII) should be settled by January next year.

He said the board and the NII were confident that this extra work would not delay the £1.2 billion project.

The CEBG is hoping to make a start on the main foundations for the PWR in October, 1986, if the government gives Sizewell B the green light.

Lord Silcock told the inquiry inspector, Sir Frank Layfield, QC, that the safety of Sizewell B was a matter of "prophecy, like its economics."

The inquiry continues.

ing hostages at gunpoint in the village of North-Aston near Banbury.

Brain had written to the News of the World.

'Vital plea' for painting

By Donald Wintergill, Art Sales Correspondent

THE BRITISH Museum launched its first appeal to the public for 53 years yesterday in an attempt to acquire a masterpiece by the visionary artist, Samuel Palmer (1805-1881).

The museum is hoping to raise £170,000 towards the £200,000 needed to buy the 7½ inch by 11½ inch water-colour, A Cornfield by Midnight.

It was recently sold by private treaty but an export licence was refused until the end of April. This gives the museum until then to match the price.

The museum was forced to appeal for money because rising costs meant that there was not enough cash from private funds and trusts, said Sir David Wilson, the director. He said the museum was very shocked when the government recently cut its spending grant.

Sir David said the work was exceptional and a vital part of Britain's national collection.

He pointed out that it dates from Palmer's most creative period when he lived in Shoreham, Kent.

Forgery raid

Several men are to appear in court after the discovery of £500 notes with a face value of around £300,000 — in a raid on a caravan park in Leicester.

ERITREA

The refugees are dying at the rate of 25 to 50 a day. There is no food, no medicine, no shelter. The condition of the newly arriving refugees in Kassala is beyond my capacity to express. One can say they are as dead as the people who have died in the famine.

Victims are without a cup of milk or a morsel of bread to save their lives. The famine is killing them. Down just like our lives.

Reprints of this article are available from the Eritrean Relief Committee, 10, Broad Street, London W1P 6JF.

FAMINE AND GENOCIDE

AS FAMINE grips the Horn of Africa, the Eritrean people are amongst those suffering the most. More than half a million have fled for refuge into Sudan, most of them by the famine. Those inside Eritrea also face the daily threat of military offensives and bombing raids by the Ethiopian army.

Because Eritrea was illegally annexed by Ethiopia in 1962, you probably assume that the 3.5 million Eritreans are receiving some of the food aid sent recently to Ethiopia. For those living in Eritrea, this is not so.

Ethiopia recently seized Australian food aid specifically destined for the Eritrean people. And, as recent TV news reports have shown, the Ethiopian army continues its campaign to suppress our struggle for freedom.

The Eritrean Relief Committee (United Kingdom) exists to raise funds for its parent body, the Eritrean Relief Committee. From the thousands of headquarters, the Committee supports and runs a whole range of projects, amongst the religious and health centres, Eritrean, most importantly in famine relief.

Help them to stay alive in '85

A simple, practical way to help is by completing the Eritrean Relief Committee form below, for a regular monthly donation throughout 1985. Please complete the form and post it today. If you prefer, we are pleased to accept any donation.

COMPLETE this form and send to: Eritrean Relief Committee, Dept. GUT, 72A Regent Street, London W1B 7EP

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To: The Manager _____ Bank P.C.

(Address of Bank) _____

Please pay to 10-00-00 WILLIAMS AND GILKS BANK, 100 Regent Street, London W1B 7EP

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Donor's Name _____ (To be printed by E.R.C.)

Please quote this reference on all payments.

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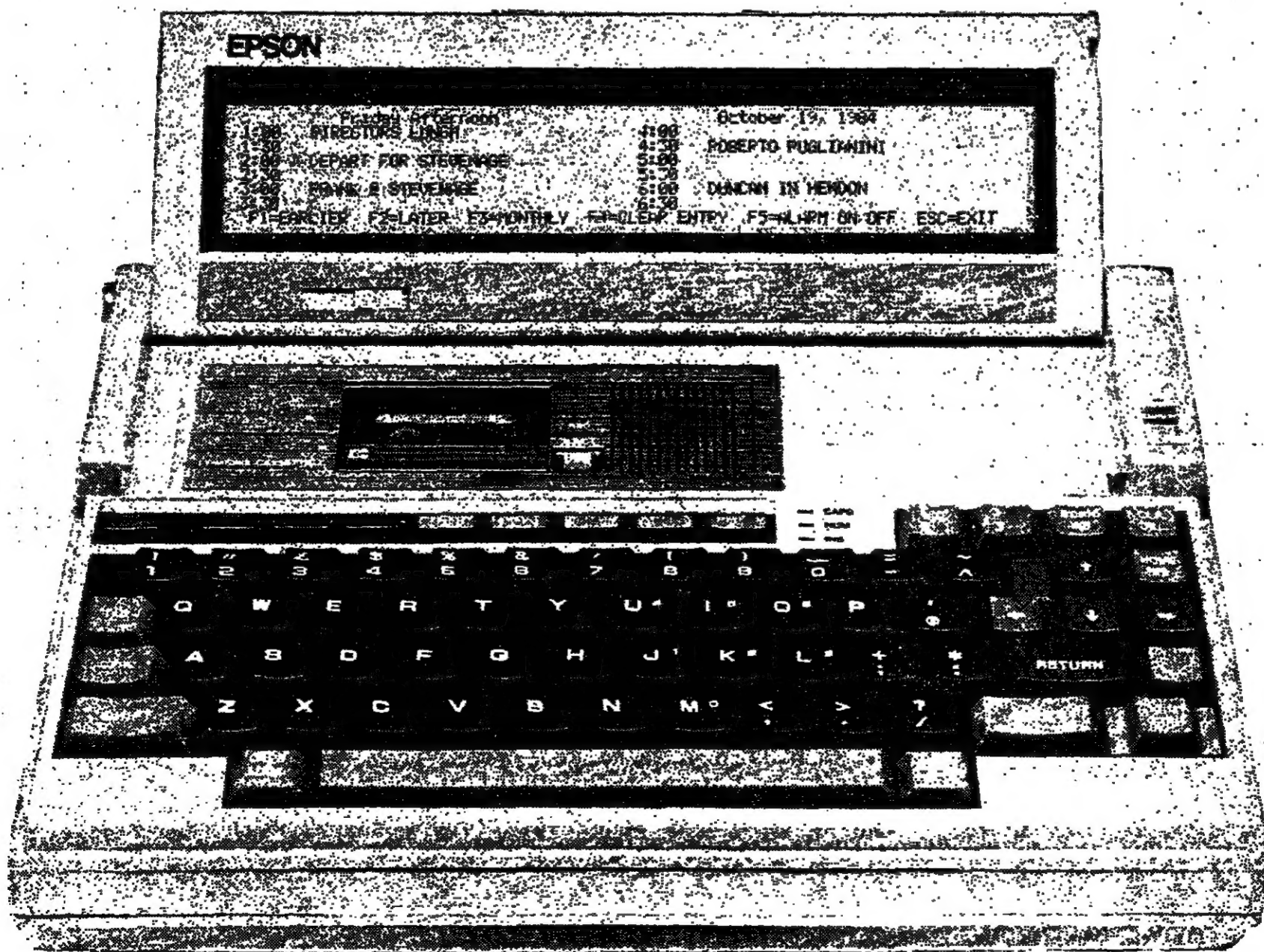
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This appointment was made over lunch at Chez Solange, Leicester Square.



This appointment was made on an Epson...



Was it one glass of Chablis too many? Or just that you were totally unprepared at lunch?

After all, you can't cart the office round with you everywhere, can you? Or can you?

Trot along with an Epson PX-8, pictured below, and you're more or less doing just that.

You see, the Epson PX-8 is the most portable, powerful computer in the world.

Hard to believe that isn't it? Especially when you see that it's only 11.5 inches deep and no larger than an A4 sheet of paper.

It also weighs about 4 lbs. So you can go off to lunch with it and be carrying nothing more hefty than a couple of bottles of Beaujolais.

Now open your diary for this week. How many crossings out are there? Arrows shifting meetings and appointments to different days and times?

If it's anything like most management diaries, it's virtually indecipherable.

Just one of the literally thousands of things the Epson PX-8 can do for anyone in business is look after a schedule for a day, a week or a month at a time.

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And, of course, you can always rearrange times wherever you are without scribbling all over the place.

● But that's almost the least an Epson PX-8 can do for you.

It's really much more like having all the information you can get hold of in the office with you all the time.

Almost anything you see much larger micro computers doing on people's desks, the PX-8 can do.

It's a lot more powerful than some of those machines, in fact. Yet it runs off rechargeable batteries (for 20 hours non-stop).

It also runs off the mains at home or in the office.

You can link into a mainframe or micro computer easily enough by 'phone when you're out (just buy an Epson Acoustic Coupler that's equally portable).

In the office it can be used as an ordinary micro terminal - only it's a sight less bulky to have around.

£798 (+ VAT) buys you all the Epson PX-8 has to offer.

And you can't buy anything like it for that kind of money.

Especially since the Epson PX-8 comes complete with all the software you need to do business letters, documents, reports, forecasts, all kinds of analysis and record keeping.

The Epson PX-8. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase, knowing a business like the back of your hand.

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For more information on the Epson PX-8 portable computer and details of where to buy, ring 01-200 0200.

... over lunch at Chez Solange, Leicester Square.

Shultz opposes sanctions on NZ

Washington: The US Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, has warned Congress against overreacting to New Zealand's ban on US nuclear warships.

"I don't think we want to react to an ally into an enemy," he told the Senate budget committee, commenting on proposed sanctions against New Zealand.

But he said that the New Zealand ban, aimed at keeping US nuclear armed or powered ships out of its ports, "changed the meaning" of the ANZUS military alliance linking Australia and New Zealand with the US.

"They have a perfect right to take that view and to take that action," he said. But it had the US to examine all the military aspects of the US-New Zealand relationship.

The US, in further retaliation against Wellington, has dropped New Zealand from another naval exercise while planning a new military operation with Australia only.

Officials here said that the new exercises were designed to replace Sea Eagle, the anti-submarine exercise cancelled earlier.

"There may be an exercise scheduled between the US and Australia to provide similar training to that of Sea Eagle. It's likely because the need for that kind of training is still there."

In Canberra, the Australian Ministry of Defence said that the US had cancelled a major annual naval exercise with Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Britain.

Mr. Shultz told the committee: "We believe that those who live by freedom and benevolence from freedom ought to be willing to stand up and defend it, so we're disappointed in that aspect of the New Zealand performance. But basically New Zealand is a friendly country with similar values and we don't want to overreact to what they have done."

But as a result, the Reagan administration would no longer be able to cite special relationship in seeking favours from Congress for New Zealand and areas like import restrictions. "It's just not possible (now) to make that argument. But I would question the wisdom of passing something as momentary as a congressional action on this."

"While New Zealand has basically taken a walk from the military alliance they haven't taken a walk from Western values, and they're a friend and we need to treat them that way," he said.

Mr. Shultz said he expected the US to go ahead with a joint defence seminar here next month despite the exercise cancellations.

The New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, is to visit the US next week to defend his anti-nuclear policy. — AP/Reuter.

Popularity of Hawke nosedives

Sydney: The popularity of Australia's Labour Prime Minister, Mr. Bob Hawke, has slumped to its lowest point since he took office two years ago, according to a poll published yesterday.

The Morgan Gallup poll showed that his popularity has fallen 8 per cent in two weeks to 57 per cent. The survey shows that the conservative opposition would win an election if it were held now.

Amid Labour's poor poll showing, the Australian dollar crashed to a record low yesterday as the Prime Minister grappled with some of the worst domestic and foreign policy crises to hit his government. It fell to 66.5 US cents on Australian foreign exchanges, a drop of six cents in two days.

Mr. Hawke's popularity was rated the highest of any Australian Prime Minister shortly before the gambled on early elections last December. The poll showed Labour Party popularity down seven points to 43 per cent, while support for the Liberal-National Party opposition rose six points to 47 per cent.

The widely-respected survey was carried out just over a week ago when Mr. Hawke's leadership was being questioned by his own party over his handling of Australia's defence of policies while abroad. — Reuter.

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US and Soviet Union agree to discuss regional subjects

Superpower accord hints at optimism over Geneva

From Hella Pick in Vienna

The United States and the Soviet Union yesterday ended two days of talks, mainly about the Middle East, on an optimistic note. It is understood they have drawn up a list of regional subjects to be discussed at future meetings running in tandem with the Geneva arms talks.

The negotiators — Mr. Richard Murphy, US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, and Mr. Vladimir Polyakov, his Soviet counterpart — met for five hours yesterday, following up discussions held on Tuesday.

At the end, they smiled and shook hands for photographers, but they remained true to their warning that there would be no public statement until their respective capitals.

It is, however, generally acknowledged that the fact of the two superpowers meeting to discuss regional problems is alone a useful augury for a more intensive political dialogue, and for the forthcoming Geneva arms talks.

A more concrete sign that the Soviet Union may decide to take a more constructive attitude in East-West arms control negotiations came yesterday with the announcement by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna that the Soviet Union had, for the first time, agreed to allow international inspection of some of its civilian nuclear power reactors.

The disclosure came yesterday during a meeting of the governors of the IAEA, set up to ensure compliance with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Under the terms of the treaty, all participating countries are to allow inspection of their nuclear reactors by an international inspectorate.

Until now the Soviet Union has always refused such inspection, arguing, as it has done in virtually all arms control negotiations, that such inspection was tantamount to organised espionage.

Last year the Soviet Union made a move towards allowing foreign verification of arms control agreements when it proposed at future meetings that international teams could supervise, under carefully controlled circumstances, the destruction of chemical weapon facilities and stockpiles.

Little progress has been made in negotiations for a ban on chemical weapons, but the Soviet Union has now negotiated an agreement with the IAEA providing for arrangements to send inspectors into Soviet nuclear power plants. This is not a blank cheque for inspection, and it is likely that at least to start with, the Soviet Union will only allow inspections to be carried out in four of its civilian nuclear plants.

Non-proliferation Treaty see the Soviet move in the context of next September's treaty review conference. All the nuclear powers, including the Soviet Union, are to show the rest of the world positive signs that they have respected the treaty.

They will be under strong pressure from non-nuclear countries to halt the nuclear arms race, and are certain to be told that they cannot expect other countries to respect the treaty unless the nuclear powers themselves reach agreements.

A Reuters adds from Moscow: A Politburo member, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, widely regarded as a probable successor to President Chernenko, criticised the US yesterday for its approach to the Geneva arms talks.

"The Soviet Union is entering the talks with an honest striving to achieve practical results," Mr. Gorbachev said.

He held in Brussels at the end of March.

Time is perilously short on both fronts. Last summer, the Community's negotiators committed itself to Spanish and Portuguese entry by January 1, 1986. The Community's accession terms, it was then said, should be settled by the end of September, 1984, to give enough time for the member state parliaments to ratify the final accession treaties.

In fact, it took until the end of last year for the Community to decide its own negotiating position and even now parts of it are subject to fierce dispute: it is generally reckoned that unless there is final agreement by the end of March, the January, 1986, deadline will be all but impossible to achieve.

The latest and greatest problem is how to carve out an acceptable niche for Spain in the community's complex fishing agreement. The common Fisheries Policy took the part of 10 years to negotiate, and those countries which have important stakes in the North Sea and Atlantic fishing grounds are horrified by the idea of unravelling the deal to accommodate Spain's enormous fleet.

The deadlock in the enlargement negotiations is intimately linked to the Community's continuing budget woes. There is in fact no budget for 1985, and after the European Parliament rejected a Council of Ministers' draft because it contained insufficient cash to sustain spending plans for the whole year.

The Council cannot raise more money from member states because of the present legal ceiling on Community revenue.

Meanwhile, the EEC is working on a ramshackle month-by-month financing system, and is heading for a £12 billion deficit by the end of the year. Nor is there any scope to fulfil last year's promise to Britain of a £600 million reduction in her payments this year.

This week's Council considered, but failed to agree on, two possible solutions. Both would involve Britain paying a handsome share — up to £250 million — towards her own refund.

Mr. Campomanes has made no mention of the letter, telling a press conference that he alone was involved in the decision and that he did not make up his mind what to do "until reaching his podium". The decision, however, had been announced 12 minutes earlier by Tass.

One of the chess world's most respected figures later said he feared that Karpov, who first publicly agreed with the decision, was engaged in a complex manoeuvre to get the rest badly needed. He expected the champion later to seek the resumption of the match.

On Tuesday, he wrote to Mr. Campomanes urging its swift resumption.

There has been widespread speculation here that Mr. Campomanes' decision was designed to save Karpov from defeat. Washington Post.

His decision to sell Knorr-Bremse, which has annual sales of £360 million and is Europe's biggest maker of locomotive air brakes, coincided with a bitter boardroom dispute. In November, Mr. Von Bandemer's uncle, Mr. Joachim Bandemer, agreed to sell out, giving his nephew control of 99 per cent of the company's stock.

The Munich-based firm, founded in 1905, had run into difficulties because of losses at its diesel engine-making subsidiary, MWM. Knorr-Bremse announced last month plans to sell control of MWM to Klockner, Humboldt, Deutz.

Mr. Von Bandemer says that he believed he would be selling a profitable company to the public.

In his new life, based on the simple teachings of Christ's sermon on the mount, Mr. Von Bandemer will support an organisation that combines Eastern mythology with the experience of Western rationality. The Heimholungswerk links the concept of rebirth and reincarnation with those of ecological preservation and the need to seek new forms of healing.

West Germany has seen a boom in religious sects ever since the early 1970s. Most are based on Eastern mythology and have arrived via the US.

The Government, in a report last year, said that the growth of "youth religions" and

speculation, arguing, as it has done in virtually all arms control negotiations, that such inspection was tantamount to organised espionage.

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The Government, in a report last year, said that the growth of "youth religions" and

"psycho-sects" were being watched with concern. The Government is aware of its responsibility for offering young people scope for freely developing their personalities, combining social involvement with freedom of conscience," the report said.

The authorities are particularly worried about the political activities of the sects, which, while preaching anti-Communism, appear to appeal successfully to the fears of a nuclear war.

Recent polls have revealed an extreme conservative trend among young voters between 18 and 25. The trend is attributed to stiff competition for university places and jobs.

PERU's attorney-general has accused a naval officer of involvement in the disappearance of a journalist and the killing of six churchgoers. A public prosecutor, Jorge Mejia, said yesterday. The officer, identified by a code name, was accused in connection with the disappearance of a journalist, August 27, of the Lima newspaper, La Republica. The six churchgoers died last August at Calqui, a suburb of Huanta. — Reuter.

THE Australian Government said yesterday that it would allow nearly two million kangaroos to be shot this year. Conservationists quickly promised national protests against the cull, and in particular, Greenpeace said it planned demonstrations in all main cities next week. The kangaroos are shot for their skins and meat. — Reuter.

AN EAST Berlin court yesterday sentenced a West German mayor for six years for his role in a failed attempt by several East Germans to escape to the West, the official news agency ADN reported. Ernst-Rubert von Mischke, mayor of West Berlin, was tried behind closed doors. — Reuter.

THE head of the Spanish Communist Airline Pilot's Union, Manuel Lopez, said yesterday that the 178-foot television mast clipped by the Iberia Airlines Boeing which crashed on Tuesday does not appear on maps used by the airline's pilots. A hundred and thirty-eight people were killed. — AP.

THE Bible was available in 306 languages by the end of 1984, the Swiss Evangelical Press Service reported in Zurich. The entire Bible has been published in 286 languages and the New Testament in another 594. Partial translations have appeared in an additional 282 languages. — AP.

JOHN ZACCARO, the husband of last year's Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, was sentenced yesterday to perform 100 hours of community service for his role in a scheme fraudulently to obtain a loan. Mrs Ferraro was not in court when sentence was handed down. — AP.

THE mayor of Candaba, in the northern Philippines, shot himself dead when he slammed his car door on a cocked pistol tucked in his belt, police said.

They added that his driver tried to rush the mayor, Gonzalo Martin, to hospital but the car ran out of petrol on the way. — Reuter.

THE former world boxing champion, Muhammad Ali (below) left Beirut yesterday after failing to secure the release of four kidnapped Americans and a Saudi Arabian. Anonymous callers have said the Muslim fundamentalist group, "Islamic Jihad (Holy War)", is holding the five men, all seized in mainly Muslim west Beirut over the past 13 months. — Reuter.



Smiling: The Russian chief delegate, Vladimir Polyakov, leaves yesterday's talks

Star War tests 'threaten shuttle'

From Mark Traub in Washington

American defence experts have expressed serious concern at the Pentagon's plans to bring forward by two years proposals to use the space shuttle for testing Star Wars technology. The experiments are to begin in 1987.

One analyst said that such experiments would be extremely dangerous since they could involve the shuttle in possible violations of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The experiments threaten the entire future of the shuttle programme, he warned.

Under the ABM Treaty, advanced development, testing and deployment of certain types of ABM systems and their components are banned, although basic research on all types of ABM systems and components is allowed.

The Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that, beginning in 1987, two shuttle flights a year will carry experiments for President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative which seeks to erect a shield against incoming missiles. The initial tests will involve possible ways of tracking and targeting enemy missiles from a platform in space.

The experiments are specifically designed to test the stability of the hinge that will hold the infra-red telescope to track Soviet missiles.

Tracking and targeting objects from the space shuttle were part of the Talon Gold research programme that started before the Reagan Administration. Earlier this month, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Caspar Weinberger, told Congress that Lieutenant-General James Abrahamson, director of SDI, was restructuring Talon Gold into a more comprehensive programme.

A Pentagon spokesman quoted General Abrahamson as saying that "because things are going along quite well, the initial testing can be accelerated." Aware of the implications for the ABM treaty, the spokesman said that the tests did not involve a schedule for actual deployment. The programme involved pure research.

Nevertheless, some defence analysts believe that the US decision may violate the ABM treaty. The testing of components — which the Soviet Union can justifiably argue is banned by the treaty — could undermine the accord. One expert thought that the announcement may be a trial balloon to see how the Soviet Union would respond.

The US will argue that the experiments do not involve the testing of a component that amounts to a space-based interceptor or a radar system. If it had sent up the whole Talon Gold system, said one expert, it would have been clearly in violation of the ABM Treaty. As it is the US can argue that the hinge in itself does not constitute such a component and therefore is not a violation.

Talon Gold was originally designed to include two demonstrations of the system aboard the shuttle that were scheduled to take place in mid-1987 and mid-1988.

Each demonstration was made available to Western reporters in Warsaw by Zygmunt Lenyk, a spokesman for the Krakow Human Rights Committee.

In a related development, opposition sources disclosed that 800 former internees and political prisoners had sent a petition to Poland's prosecutor-general charging that authorities "violate basic human rights" by arresting three senior Solidarity activists.

The three activists — Adam Michnik of Warsaw, Bogdan Lis of Gdansk and Wladyslaw Frasyniuk of Wrocław — were placed under arrest after police raided a clandestine union meeting in Gdansk called by Lech Walesa to map plans for a 15-minute general strike on February 28 against food price rises.

In our opinion, it (the arrests) is using force against people who want to organise the society in defence from poverty," said the petition.

"Force is not the road to national accord — there is a need to have something more than price rises and repression to offer the nation."

The hunger strikers include Anna Walentynowicz, a Gdansk union activist who was dismissed from her job at the Lenin shipyard sparked the strikes that gave rise to Solidarity in 1980.

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Russia's secret moves

From Dusko Doder in Moscow

The furor surrounding the cancelled world chess title match has deepened with the surfacing of a document linking the decision of Florencio Campomanes, president of the International Chess Federation, to halt play with a senior Soviet Chess Federation official.

Well-informed sources said he terminated the match because the champion, Anatoly Karpov, and his challenger, Gary Kasparov, after receiving a letter from Vitali Sevastianov, president of the Soviet federation, requesting a three-month delay, his letter said that he would be both the champion and his challenger sought a delay because of exhaustion and other health reasons.

Kasparov, aged 21, has vigorously denied that he ever asked for a delay and accused Mr. Campomanes and match organisers of using delaying tactics that favoured Karpov.

Mr. Campomanes has made no mention of the letter, telling a press conference that he alone was involved in the decision and that he did not make up his mind what to do "until reaching his podium". The decision, however, had been announced 12 minutes earlier by Tass.

One of the chess world's most respected figures later said he feared that Karpov, who first publicly agreed with the decision, was engaged in a complex manoeuvre to get the rest badly needed. He expected the champion later to seek the resumption of the match.

On Tuesday, he wrote to Mr. Campomanes urging its swift resumption.

There has been widespread speculation here that Mr. Campomanes' decision was designed to save Karpov from defeat. Washington Post.

His decision to sell Knorr-Bremse, which has annual sales of £360 million and is Europe's biggest maker of locomotive air brakes, coincided with a bitter boardroom dispute. In November, Mr. Von Bandemer's uncle, Mr. Joachim Bandemer, agreed to sell out, giving his nephew control of 99 per cent of the company's stock.

The Munich-based firm, founded in 1905, had run into difficulties because of losses at its diesel engine-making subsidiary, MWM. Knorr-Bremse announced last month plans to sell control of MWM to Klockner, Humboldt, Deutz.

Mr. Von Bandemer says that he believed he would be selling a profitable company to the public.

In his new life, based on the simple teachings of Christ's sermon on the mount, Mr. Von Bandemer will support an organisation that combines Eastern mythology with the experience of Western rationality. The Heimholungswerk links the concept of rebirth and reincarnation with those of ecological preservation and the need to seek new forms of healing.

West Germany has seen a boom in religious sects ever since the early 1970s. Most are based on Eastern mythology and have arrived via the US.

The Government, in a report last year, said that the growth of "youth religions" and

"psycho-sects" were being watched with concern. The Government is aware of its responsibility for offering young people scope for freely developing their personalities, combining social involvement with freedom of conscience," the report said.

The authorities are particularly worried about the political activities of the sects, which, while preaching anti-Communism, appear to appeal successfully to the fears of a nuclear war.

Recent polls have revealed an extreme conservative trend among young voters between 18 and 25. The trend is attributed to stiff competition for university places and jobs.

PERU's attorney-general has accused a naval officer of involvement in the disappearance of a journalist and the killing of six churchgoers. A public prosecutor, Jorge Mejia, said yesterday. The officer, identified by a code name, was accused in connection with the disappearance of a journalist, August 27, of the Lima newspaper, La Republica. The six churchgoers died last August at Calqui, a suburb of Huanta. — Reuter.

THE Australian Government said yesterday that it would allow nearly two million kangaroos to be shot this year. Conservationists quickly promised national protests against the cull, and in particular, Greenpeace said it planned demonstrations in all main cities next week. The kangaroos are shot for their skins and meat. — Reuter.

AN EAST Berlin court yesterday sentenced a West German mayor for six years for his role in a failed attempt by several East Germans to escape to the West, the official news agency ADN reported. Ernst-Rubert von Mischke, mayor of West Berlin, was tried behind closed doors. — Reuter.

THE head of the Spanish Communist Airline Pilot's Union, Manuel Lopez, said yesterday that the 178-foot television mast clipped by the Iberia Airlines Boeing which crashed on Tuesday does not appear on maps used by the airline's pilots. A hundred and thirty-eight people were killed. — AP.

THE Bible was available in 306 languages by the end of 1984, the Swiss Evangelical Press Service reported in Zurich. The entire Bible has been published in 286 languages and the New Testament in another 594. Partial translations have appeared in an additional 282 languages. — AP.

JOHN ZACCARO, the husband of last year's Democratic vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro, was sentenced yesterday to perform 100 hours of community

Need for tact limits scope of retaliatory measures

Israeli army struggles to cut losses in Lebanon

From Ian Black in Jerusalem

Faced with mounting casualties at the front and pressures at home, the Israeli army is exploring new ways to stem the rising tide of Shi'ite Muslim resistance in the villages of south Lebanon.

Some innovations are already in evidence but they are a question of scale rather than substance: despite grave and growing concern about the problem there is an almost bitter awareness that there are limits beyond which the Israeli army simply cannot afford to go.

"We've got to find ways to contain these attacks," one senior Israeli officer said yesterday. "But we must also remember that somehow we're going to have to live with these people in the future. We can't just level their villages like the Syrians used to do."

Israel Radio reported last night that when the Prime Minister Mr. Pines, returning from his visit to Italy and Rumania, the inner Cabinet will be asked to approve a series of "far reaching" measures, including collective punishments and banishments, for use in south Lebanon.

The question of how to deal with Shi'ite resistance has taken on a special urgency since Israel completed the first stage of its planned three-phase withdrawal from south Lebanon last weekend.

In less than a week, four soldiers, including a colonel and a major, have been killed in the largely Shi'ite area of which will remain under Is-

Smiles mask fears of PLO power tussle

From Julie Flint in Sidon

SHORTLY before the Israelis pulled out of Sidon last weekend, armed, masked men broke into a Swiss-run kindergarten on the edge of Sidon's Ain Helwe Palestinian camp. Warning people in the building not to interfere, they dug up a huge sackful of guns buried beneath the kitchen floorboards. Private homes and bomb shelters the Israelis never found are said to be yielding similar caches.

Since the Israeli departure, Ain Helwe and the tiny Mieh Mieh camp on the hill above it have been ringed by a battalion of Lebanese soldiers whose mandate appears to be to protect the Palestinians from the Lebanese—and vice versa—but not necessarily from each other. Outraged, the Palestinians in the camps are all smiles, comforted by the army buffer. Inwardly, there is profound concern about the future and a possible replay of the Arafat-Abu Musa PLO conflict within the scarred and narrow confines of the camps.

These fears deepened with Monday's invasion of predominantly Sunni Muslim Sidon by thousands of Shi'ite fundamentalists from Beirut. "The people in the camp feel isolated enough, politically as well as geographically, not to be dragged into a Sunni-Shi'ite, or even Shi'ite-Shi'ite, confrontation," a foreign worker in Ain Helwe said. "But they see this happening to the Lebanese and they are very afraid of outsiders—Palestinian outsiders—coming in to cause the same kind of problems in the camps."

"It is true that they are pleased with the army's withdrawal, but they aren't thinking more than a week or two ahead. If you scratch a Palestinian, there's hysteria very close to the surface."

For the moment, that hysteria is well-covered. All the people feel good, 22-year-old



ARMY WATCH: Lebanese soldiers patrol Sidon's Ain Helwe Palestinian refugee camp, where the atmosphere has relaxed since Israeli withdrawal

Ahmad from Ain Helwe says. "The army is good." A grandmother feeding her goats on the camp's rubbish dump was equally enthusiastic. "An old man died here yesterday, four soldiers came to say sorry. The army is very nice with the camp. Fifteen-year-old Abdullah, from Mieh Mieh, says: when the Israelis were here, 'we were very afraid. They took the adults to Ansar'—the prison camp still under Israeli control. "Now we feel very safe."

The good mood is further improved by the opening of the road to Beirut and the chance to visit friends and relatives in the Beirut refugee

camps for the first time in more than 24 years. There are no parties in the clinics, a social worker in Ain Helwe says. "Everybody is too busy visiting. They're all coming and going with presents and sweets."

At the same time, however, the refugees are asking themselves what these visits will mean in the longer term. "I suppose it will mean money," one young woman says "but also some kind of political ties..."

Although most of the popular sympathy in the camps is for Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, well-informed sources

say that most of the money and guns, such as they are, are coming from the Syrian-backed PLO rebel leader Abu Musa. There is much talk of a deal struck, in the wider context of pacifying Lebanon, between Syria and Saudi Arabia; Syria is said to have guaranteed that Sidon will remain Sunni, while Saudi Arabia has reportedly promised to rein in Mr Arafat should he attempt to reinforce his own position in the camps to weaken Syrian influence there.

With the Israeli departure, it seems inevitable that there will be a power struggle in the camps, as there will be in Sidon. Foreign workers say the

camp Palestinians have become increasingly bolder of late. Gunmen wearing coloured masks—a different colour for each PLO faction—have been picking off Israeli collaborators inside the camps, while others have begun taking part in attacks outside.

The Lebanese soldiers posted around the camps make it clear that they have no desire at all to intervene in Palestinian disputes. If the Palestinians start shooting each other, they may well be left to get on with it. "Let them fight each other," one officer says. "We won't get involved—unless we are ordered to by the high command."

Raison to press for more food aid

From Nick Cater in Kassala, Sudan

Britain plans to put pressure on the EEC to increase and accelerate its food supplies to drought-hit Sudan, the Minister for Overseas Development, Mr Timothy Raison, said after touring camps for Ethiopian refugees and Sudanese famine victims.

Mr Raison also criticised the Sudanese for their slowness in requesting food aid. "The massive influx of refugees obviously brought an issue up, but it is only relatively recently that the government asked for help—we ought to have known earlier."

At Derideib, a camp for 13,000 Beja nomads on the edge of the Red Sea hills, Mr Raison saw some of the worst affected Sudanese. In a stifling hot feeding centre for malnourished children, listless mothers waved away clouds of flies from their babies' eyes while a young girl lay moaning on a filthy grass mat.

But the death rate is falling, from eight a day six months ago to five a week, Mr Raison was told by two Save the Children nurses, one a young girl, one a young man, both from Kent, and Miss Sue Chadwick, from Dorset, are looking after 250 people in need of urgent feeding.

Miss Gardener said: "We walk past the graveyard every morning and try not to look. We have a lot of children, but most of the camp is living on fresh air. They have nothing left."

Babies that are still being breast-fed are usually OK, and so are the older children, but there is a big gap between where most have died.

"These people are nomads who until this had large herds of camels, sheep and goats. Even if the rains come, they can't leave here and hope to find without seeds and new animals."

In the hundreds of tents pitched on the hard ground, the Beja sit and watch the grain trucks, paid for by the US and destined for western Sudan, pass every day. "I sometimes wonder why they don't go out and just stop one," Miss Gardener said.

Also working in the camp is Mr Dave Ellaway, a former ambulanceman from Gloucestershire, now working with the League of Red Cross Societies.

"We have a catchment area of perhaps 150,000 people, and we must get food out to the hills," he said. "We've been out on camels to find them, but they are so far away. 60 per cent are severely malnourished and in three months here I've only seen one child in the area who was at the normal weight."

It is the hills, we need communications gear, diesel fuel and four-wheel drive vehicles with desert tyres. We would use camels but there are only a few left here, out of thousands. When the camels die out here you know you're at the end of the line."

Oxfam gave us 125 tons of grain for the camp two weeks ago. Since then there has been nothing—and there appears to be nothing in the pipeline."

Earlier in the day, Mr Raison drove out the 10 miles across bare scrub land from Kassala to the Wad Sheriffe camp for Eritrean refugees, where the situation appears to have eased slightly. A few weeks ago, food and water supplies could not keep pace with the hundreds of new arrivals.

From a peak of 78,000—the camp was intended for 4,000—numbers have fallen to 67,000 people living in small huts, round mud huts, hatched with grass. Two hundred are being moved daily to new settlements.

At least 85,000 gallons of water must be trucked in every day, but much is drilled in 40 bore holes to make the camp self-sufficient.

SA doctor vindicated

From Barry Streak in Cape Town

The South Africa Medical and Dental Council yesterday dropped an inquiry into the conduct of a former political prisoner, Dr Mokoape, whose removal from the medical register.

Dr Mokoape, a close friend of the late Steve Biko, the black consciousness movement leader who died in detention in 1977, was gaoled in 1978 after being convicted under the Terrorism Act for his part in organising a rally to celebrate the victory of Frelimo in Mozambique.

After his release from prison he was re-registered as an intern and later registered as a doctor.

The council, meeting in Pretoria, agreed to drop the case after Dr Mokoape's lawyer argued that it had no jurisdiction in the case. The council made a written complaint to Dr Mokoape as required by law.

The only witness for the council, Mr Nicolaas Prinsloo, its registrar, admitted that the council had been fully aware of Dr Mokoape's conviction and gaoled sentence when it registered him as a medical practitioner in 1983.

'Votes sold' in Kuwait election

From Jonathan Birchall in Kuwait

Kuwait went to the polls yesterday after a campaign in which more than 260 candidates fought for 50 seats in the national assembly, the only democratically elected parliament in the conservative Gulf states, and one of the few in the Arab world.

But the system, as Kuwaitis freely admit, is not as sophisticated as those in the West: less than 4 per cent of the country's 1.6 million population were allowed to vote: 900,000 expatriates, women, men under 21 and Ku-

waitis without full citizenship cannot vote.

Kuwaitis voted amid tight security in elections beset with charges of irregularities. There have been claims of interference in the democratic process, and one candidate says that he was shot at three times.

"Money is an important factor for wooing voters," the Kuwait Times reported. "The price of a vote in areas away from the city ranges between 50 and 1,500 dinars (\$1,650 to \$5,000)."

Amid the allegations of vote-buying and manipulation, cynics say the Government gets the assembly it wants.

The assembly's legislative power is also subject to the approval of the Government of the Amir, Sheikh Jaber al Sabah, who can rule by decree.

The Government's influence on the assembly make-up is generally indirect, using offers of free housing, or dropping hints that a candidate is out of favour, highly effective in the small constituencies.

However, Kuwait's politicisation is growing. The Kuwaiti political scene, says Mr. Rumei, is increasing political maturity in the reduced number of candidates—from more than 480 in 1981—and in the emergence of a "political class" of candidates, standing on concrete programmes presented to an increasingly aware electorate.



The Amir: the ultimate power in Kuwait

Jordan plan endorsed

Tunis: The top policy-making body of the PLO said yesterday that it backed Mr Yasser Arafat's peace move with Jordan, provided they received "full Arab support."

The statement from the 10-man PLO executive committee was the first official endorsement of the "formula for joint action" towards Middle East peace worked out by Arafat and King Hussein of Jordan in Amman on February 11.

It revealed a change in the formula on PLO representation to a future international peace conference, saying there should be a unified Arab delegation to the talks, including the PLO.

Terms of the accord have not been officially revealed. But PLO sources said that the agreement originally called for a joint Jordan-PLO delegation—an idea rejected by some hardliners as it appeared to dilute the PLO's sole right to represent the Palestinians.

"The executive committee approved the draft asserting that the plan should involve the parties concerned being represented in a joint Arab delegation and that all this should enjoy full Arab support," the statement said.

Elegance rules in top Saudi store

JEDDAH: The fragrances of Europe's top perfumers hang in the humid air of the Red Sea dusk as a Pakistani labourer works an electric polisher, burnishing the tiles outside Ambed B. Fitaihi's emporium on Medina Road.

"Love at Fitaihi's where shopping is a pleasure," proclaims a window display dominated by a huge blood-red heart.

A tiered Filipino tugu opens the plate glass door, wiping the handle with a white cloth. "It is 18-carat gold," an aide says. "Mr Fitaihi has fine taste."

Mr Fitaihi, aged 43, is the prosperous jeweller who has just sunk a fortune—gossips say at least \$25 million—into providing Saudi Arabia's upper crust with a top jeweller's department store of their own.

He is a pace-setter among several Jeddah merchants seeking to indulge, back home, a Saudi passion for high-class shopping acquired on holiday in the stores and boutiques of the West.

Within Fitaihi's, the light dazzles. Underfoot are expanse of marble, much of it delicately pink. The call of the Mezzain is broadcast among the gems and the lingerie. —Renter.

watches in torrents of diamonds.

To meet the emporium's creator, the privileged ascend in his private lift, a brightly lit box in a curved glass tube that glides up the coolly-elegant exterior of the House of Fitaihi.

Between signing cash vouchers or vetting a creation of the jewellery factory that shares the floor—jewellery is his abiding passion—Mr Fitaihi can touch the buttons on a control panel and see what is going on anywhere in the store.

His is a family firm and Mr Fitaihi, head of the family, runs a vast "one-man show" in the age-old way of Arabia's merchants.

He turns out to be a deceptively mild, slight, graying man, neatly attired in a spotless robe, a devoted father of four, and lately a doting grandfather.

"Where did I get the idea for my building? We have seen a building for 87 years, in Mecca, then in Jeddah. Then the landlord wanted to throw us out," Mr Fitaihi says. So we thought, why not build our own shop?

It is the heart of the evening prayer. The call of the Mezzain is broadcast among the gems and the lingerie. —Renter.

More held in Lahore

From Eric Silver in Lahore

Police yesterday arrested 20 opposition activists who tried to demonstrate in Lahore against Pakistan's elections next week.

After about 100 protesters gathered, plainclothes police quickly moved in and bunched them into waiting jeeps.

Traffic on the main street was disrupted for about an hour and other demonstrators shouted anti-government slogans and pelleted police with stones. Police wielding batons made nine more arrests.

With all its main leaders in prison or under house arrest, the Opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) can manage no more than token protests. Those arrested yesterday included Mr Khurshid Kasuri, information secretary of Mr Marshal Asghar Khan's Tehrik Istislahi Party, Mr Malek Hakeem Khan, MRD acting secretary in Punjab, and Mr Ziauddin Butt, trade union organiser.

Thais repel Vietnamese

Aranyaprathet: Vietnamese troops, trying to take a hilltop in Thailand, clashed with Thai forces yesterday, killing an officer and seriously wounding two soldiers, a Thai official said.

The clash was the second reported encounter between the two sides in recent days. The armed forces commander, General Arinut Kamlang-Ek, said that artillery fire was exchanged as Vietnamese soldiers attempted to take a hill in Thailand's Buriram province. The Vietnamese were forced back into Kampuchea, where they are fighting Kampuchean resistance groups, he said.

The clash occurred near the hill which the Thais claim was attacked last weekend.—AP.

Jayewardene gets tough with India over terrorists

From Roland Edirisinghe in Colombo

President Jayewardene yesterday accused India of fomenting and encouraging terrorism in Sri Lanka at the opening of the fifth session of Parliament.

"The Government of Sri Lanka has made representations on several occasions to the Government of India that there is evidence that terrorists operating in Sri Lanka are being trained in camps situated in India," he said.

"We have also complained that the leaders of this movement live in India, and meet and conduct illegal activities in India."

The guerrillas are fighting to set up a separate state for the island's Tamil community in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

Mr Jayewardene said that Delhi has "denied that terrorists are trained in camps in India, that they operate from there and cross over with arms to Sri Lanka."

"We have suggested a joint surveillance zone which will attempt to prevent infiltration into Sri Lanka of terrorists from Indian soil. This surveillance can also prevent movement of refugees from Sri Lanka to India. Why should India object?"

He said that the Government might have to equip itself to defeat the guerrillas at the expense of development and welfare plans.

The Government had information that the hit and run tactics of the terrorists are to be changed soon, the President said.

tempt to prevent infiltration into Sri Lanka of terrorists from Indian soil. This surveillance can also prevent movement of refugees from Sri Lanka to India. Why should India object?"

He said that the Government might have to equip itself to defeat the guerrillas at the expense of development and welfare plans.

The Government had information that the hit and run tactics of the terrorists are to be changed soon, the President said.

"At least three of the terrorist groups have united and agreed on a common military strategy, which will culminate in a head on battle with the Sri Lanka army, as soon as they have sufficient numbers of weapons and trained men."

Preparations were now being made for the final and what was believed by the Tamils to be a "decisive" battle.

Mr Jayewardene also said that some of those in "positions of authority in south India were actively responsible for attempts to use the Sri Lankan Tamil groups under a common programme."

Terrorist leaders, he said, had also stated "that the Indian central Government and the Tamil Nadu state government were today extending their good wishes to them."

Mr Jayewardene referred to links between these groups and the world's terrorist organisations which "collaborate in training, in the exchange of weapons, organisational aid and the granting of asylum."

While Sri Lanka has complained that guerrillas are training in southern India, New Delhi has claimed that Sri Lankan patrol boats have fired at Indian fishermen in Indian waters.

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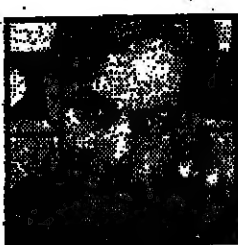
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Pictures
by
Frank Martin



Left: Red cotton drill warehouse coat (also yellow, black and white) ml only, £48; cotton rocket print shirt ml only, £35; yellow cotton drill trousers (also red, white and black) 10-14, £19 — all by Willie Brown for XLNT from Old Town, 7 Upper James Street, W1 (most order £1.50 p.p.). White cotton socks, £4.75 from a selection at Penick's, New Bond Street, W1. Ivory leather lace-ups (assorted colours) 3-8, £44.99 from Hobbs, The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2 and branches. Earrings from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Willie Brown

Below: Brown stripe linen one size coat, £139; matching brown stripe linen shirt, sm, £58; white cotton one size shirt (also blue) £37.50 — all by Darlaine Gilroy from the Darlaine Gilroy shop, 327 Kings Road, SW3; The Vestry, South Molton Street, W1; Urban Renewal, Brighton; Chique, 7 Station Road, Albrighton, West Midlands. White cotton socks, £4.75 from a selection at Penick's, New Bond Street, W1. Ivory leather lace-ups (assorted colours) 3-8, £44.99 from Hobbs, The Piazza, Covent Garden, WC2. Earrings from a selection at Liberty, Regent Street, W1.

Darlaine Gilroy



Dexter Wong

Below: White nylon lace coat with cotton back (also red and blue) one size, £68; white satin viscose top (also black, blue and grey) one size, £28; white satin viscose trousers (also black, blue and grey) one size, £45 — all by Dexter Wong from the Dexter Wong shop, 28 Bedfordbury, off New Row, WC2 (most order £2 p.p.). Earrings by Jane Chalks from Dexter Wong shop. White cotton nylon mix lace socks one size, £2.99 from The Sock Shop, West One Shopping Centre, W1. White patent lace-ups (also black, blue and red) 3-7, £40 by XX from Koko, 4 Garrick Street, WC2; Acrobat, 31 Kings Road, SW3.

Hair by Gonal at Neville Daniel, 175 Sloane Street, SW1 (01-235 2534).



Selling yourself

If you design a collection, why not make it available in your own shop? Brenda Polan meets three designers who have gone into the retail trade

IF THERE is one thing for which all fashion designers harbour a secret longing, it is probably to be their own retailer. Returning from a scout around the boutiques and stores which stock their clothes, most designers, inexperienced and established, have known that hand-me-the-bottle moment of futility when they ache to control the way their collections are displayed, coordinated, and presented to the customer.

As a profession, fashion designers are not much given to grumbling but, when provoked, they do sometimes break down and mourn the manner in which the cherished results of their labours are treated. There is a stifled sigh for the casualties crushed to death on an over-stocked rail, their once proud colours clashing irritably with their neighbours, all strangers, the brackishness of other, equally mournful designers.

There is a misty eye for the orphan, the bits of this and bits of that in incompatible sizes, none of which add up to make a whole outfit but which a certain buyer arbitrarily selected. And there's a tear for the poor neglected walls left to loiter unlovedly in a dark, uninvited corner, faces to the wall, awaiting mark-down in the sales.

It is no coincidence that the rag trade success stories of the decade so far are not, with a handful of unusually talented exceptions, among the stores and independent retailers but among the new chains whose merchandise comes out of a single design studio and whose fashion message is clipped and coherent: Next, Principles, Benetton, and from the old guard, Wallis and Laura Ashley.

It is not ego or folie de grandeur which prompts a designer to want her or his own shop; it is commercial good sense. Great designers like Yves Saint Laurent and Gianni Versace, Karl Lagerfeld and Giorgio Armani, may occasionally ap-

pear to succumb to their own publicity but none of them takes a single self-indulgent, uncommercial step.

And they, and most of the other current great names of fashion, all have their own boutiques in cities throughout the world — including London. A stroll along Sloane Street, therompton Road, New Bond Street, and Brook Street, South Molton Street, St Christopher's Place, and now Brunel Street (the new Margaret Howell shop) quickly makes the point that, by using decor and lighting, strong uncluttered display and a sales staff sympathetic to the merchandise, an ambience can be created which reflects and enhances the merchandise. The Ralph Lauren Polo shop in New Bond Street is perhaps the best example; you don't so much want to buy the merchandise as move into the shop — but you have to settle for buying the clothes.

Very few British designers have so far taken the step into retail. There is Margaret Howell, of course, and Roland Klein in Brook Street. Bruce Oldfield in Beauchamp Place and, in the younger market, Helen Robinson at PX in Endell Street, Covent Garden and the Swanky Modes trio in Camden. The start of 1985, however, brings three new designer-retailers into the market place: Darlaine Gilroy on the Kings Road, Dexter Wong in Covent Garden, and Willie Brown on the fringes of Soho.

Darlaine Gilroy is not only one of the most talented of a new generation of designers, she is also one of the most hardheaded and practical designers of any generation. Her ambition (she insisted I ask the question) is to be the first government minister for fashion and to travel into space. She is less impatient about the latter, being prepared to wait until the shuttle takes fare-paying passengers. There is, however, some urgency about the first thing.

One of her reasons for opening her own (tiny) shop

was the fate her clothes met at the hands of other shopkeepers. "Very few people in Britain know how to merchandise properly. They make mistakes when buying because they do not have a clear view of a look or a mood that they want to sell, and then they compound those mistakes by not knowing how to present the clothes to the public. Every-one is uncertain in matters of dress and customers do not react well to going into a shop and being confused even further."

And there are other good reasons, too. "In a shop you have a constant cash flow. When you wholesale you can wait to get paid and sometimes, if you are very unlucky, you may not get paid at all. If you are moderately unlucky, the retailer who can't pay will just find an excuse to send the clothes back. At least then you can sell them again. The people who come into the shop do pay you and sometimes that money is desperately needed to buy fabric. For instance, to make the next collection."

"But, although I sell well to America and to Italy and I am concentrating on the export market, there are not enough shops in London buying my sort of clothes and that means I cannot make my name in this country unless I have my own shop. Building up a list of out-of-town stockists is a long-term project, it is hard work and it is doubtful that one could sell in the quantities which are necessary. It is important to keep on increasing turnover so that you will be taken seriously by the banks when the time comes for a major development."

For Dexter Wong his minute shop in Bedfordbury was an end in itself. "I like a close relationship with the public," he says. "So I am happy if not yet rich. I love serving in the shop and talking to the customers. The feedback from them is important; I find it imposes a discipline which one does not get working in a studio for in-

stance. If anything, it makes you think in more commercial ways."

A good deal of the pleasure Dexter so obviously takes in his shop is owing to the possibilities presented by the decor. "I can change it from season to season to match the mood of the clothes. For this spring I think I will change it from all this stark minimalism and turn it into a fortuneteller's tent. That will be great fun."

Willie Brown's shop, Old Town, has a more permanent decor and theme. "It's my fictional spiritual homeland," he says. "A sort of 1950s holiday resort town. The shop used to be Demobilisation, the menswear part of Demob, across the road, and it was in that style — bleak, industrial, dingy. There's a feeling that to be credible and stylish you must have bleak premises. Old Town is going to be very cheery indeed."

He clearly relishes creating the mood of the shop as much as he enjoys the other advantage it offers him. "This is the first time," he says, "I have had the chance to put together a coherent collection, to see it displayed in strength in one place. It is very satisfying."

Like Darlaine he also welcomes the opportunity for experimenting. She says: "A shop is perfect for trying out new ideas. You get an instant response and a good indication of trends. In the same way, if a new look arrives from nowhere in the streets, you can react fast — which you cannot really do when you wholesale."

And there is another factor on which all three agree. The customer loves to meet the designer, to consult her or him on how to wear something and what to wear with it. The designer is no longer a faceless exotic who might just be designing clothes intended to make you look ridiculous. She or he is a warm and caring human being who passionately wants you to look wonderful in their clothes — and to keep the cash flowing.

She is old, disabled, cannot talk and has turned their lives upside down. But, says Frank Mulville, she is worth it

Sweet Adeline

ADELINE is 79, disabled by a stroke three years ago, no speech, paralysed down her right side, unable to walk or to do much for herself. Wendy looks after her mother at home because, she believes, standards of care in the geriatric ward, or a nursing home, are too low. Adeline can't ask for what she needs — a drink, a pee, another blanket, a cup of tea — so in a home, she would get nothing. Wendy works full time. She has a husband — me.

Wendy had to go to a conference in Manchester, before Christmas, when there was snow on the ground, leaving me in charge of the Adeline circus. We have four ladies who come in shifts — we have discovered that a few hours is as much as most of the ladies can stand of Adeline. An old, handicapped person is demanding. It is not easy to interpret the "Da do, da do, da do, da do" which are her only words.

The first day I give her tea in the morning, pull her up in bed, adjust the cushions and clothes around her neck, say a few kind words. She beams at me. "Da do, da do," she says. The first lady comes at nine and puts her on the commode. I'm not sorry that Adeline's delicacy of feeling relieves me of this task.

Adeline is breakfasted, washed, dressed, and put in her wheelchair. She can dry the breakfast dishes, wheel herself about our bungalow, lay the table, polish furniture, do her puzzles on the kitchen table. I work (scribble) in the study. The first lady gives her lunch, puts her to bed for an afternoon rest, waves goodbye, I go to the pub along the road for half a bitter. It's snowing.

I get Adeline up from her rest. "Da do, da do," she says as I come into her bedroom I sit her up, swing her legs round, and on to the floor as taught by Wendy, position the wheelchair beside the bed on my right, stand facing her, legs apart, put my right arm round her waist — careful of the paralysed shoulder — lift. She is able to stand, unsteadily on one leg. I turn her through ninety degrees, plonk her down in the wheelchair. "Da do, da do," she says. I'm sweating. It's snowing harder.

The second lady doesn't turn up

The second lady is due at four. It's snowing harder still — she doesn't turn up. I phone. Her car's stuck — she's so sorry. It's getting near to commode time. Adeline is in the drawing room, her tray fixed to her wheelchair. She can do simple jig-saw, draw with a felt pen, look at old photograph albums, picture books, play draughts — she cheats outrageously, with a disarming smile. She likes the telly.

I used to hate her because she was ruining our lives. I used to wish she would die. At first, when she was on the drug Prednesalone, she was

impossible — screaming and shouting "da doing" at the top of her voice, driving Wendy into the ground and driving a wedge between us. I thought she was a narrow, bigoted old woman. I thought it was a travesty of common sense to keep her alive with drugs.

Wendy stuck it out, wouldn't send her to a home because she knew they would be cruel to her, not because they wanted to be cruel but because Wendy cannot tell them what she wants. There had already been a nasty experience in a hospital. Adeline had devoted her life to Wendy — Wendy couldn't let her die unhappy. Slowly Wendy weaned her off the drug and slowly, Adeline became manageable, and then nice again.

She still has a sense of humour

I telephone the third lady and she says she will come at once — Adeline is "da doing" appreciatively. Soon she comes, bravely trudging through the snow. She is a new lady — has only once been shown how to get Adeline out of the chair, pants down, onto the commode, back again, pants up. "I'll manage," she says. The snow comes thicker — I go out for supplies while I still can. When I come back all is confusion.

The third lady has tried to put Adeline on the commode and failed — Adeline nearly fell, lost her balance, and her nerve, has begun to shout. "Da do, da do, da do," I say. "Come on — it's got to be done. I'm going to help her. She looks at me and nods her head dubiously. We position the commode, the chair, at right-angles. I lift Adeline, hold her precariously, turn her, the lady pulls down her pants, plonks her on the commode. Sighs of relief, hissing noise, reverse procedure. Adeline looks at me, smiles, and chuckles. "Da do, da do, da do." She still has a sense of humour.

Having the ladies is expensive and a lot of hassle but cheaper, nicer for Adeline and better for our consciences than a home. She likes to be in her own place with her own things and to know that Wendy is around. Her perception and her intelligence are slowly coming back to her. Wendy took her off the drug. People love her, come to see her, children bring her presents.

The fourth lady comes at bed time, puts Adeline on the commode, turns her up for the night. Now I don't want her to die any more — she'll probably outlive all of us but I don't mind. She has taught us to do things we thought we couldn't do. She has taught us about caring, about giving and about receiving. She has turned our lives upside down, has stopped us from doing what we want to do but it has been worth it and it still is. I don't hate her any more — I love her. And tomorrow Wendy will be back.

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Thursday February 21 1986
 disabled, cannot talk and has
 lives upside down. But,
 Mulville, she is worth it
 et Adeline

...possible - screaming
 shouting, "da da da da"
 top of her voice, singing
 into the ground, driving her
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 ground and the ground.
 ...she was a woman
 ...it was a tragedy of nature
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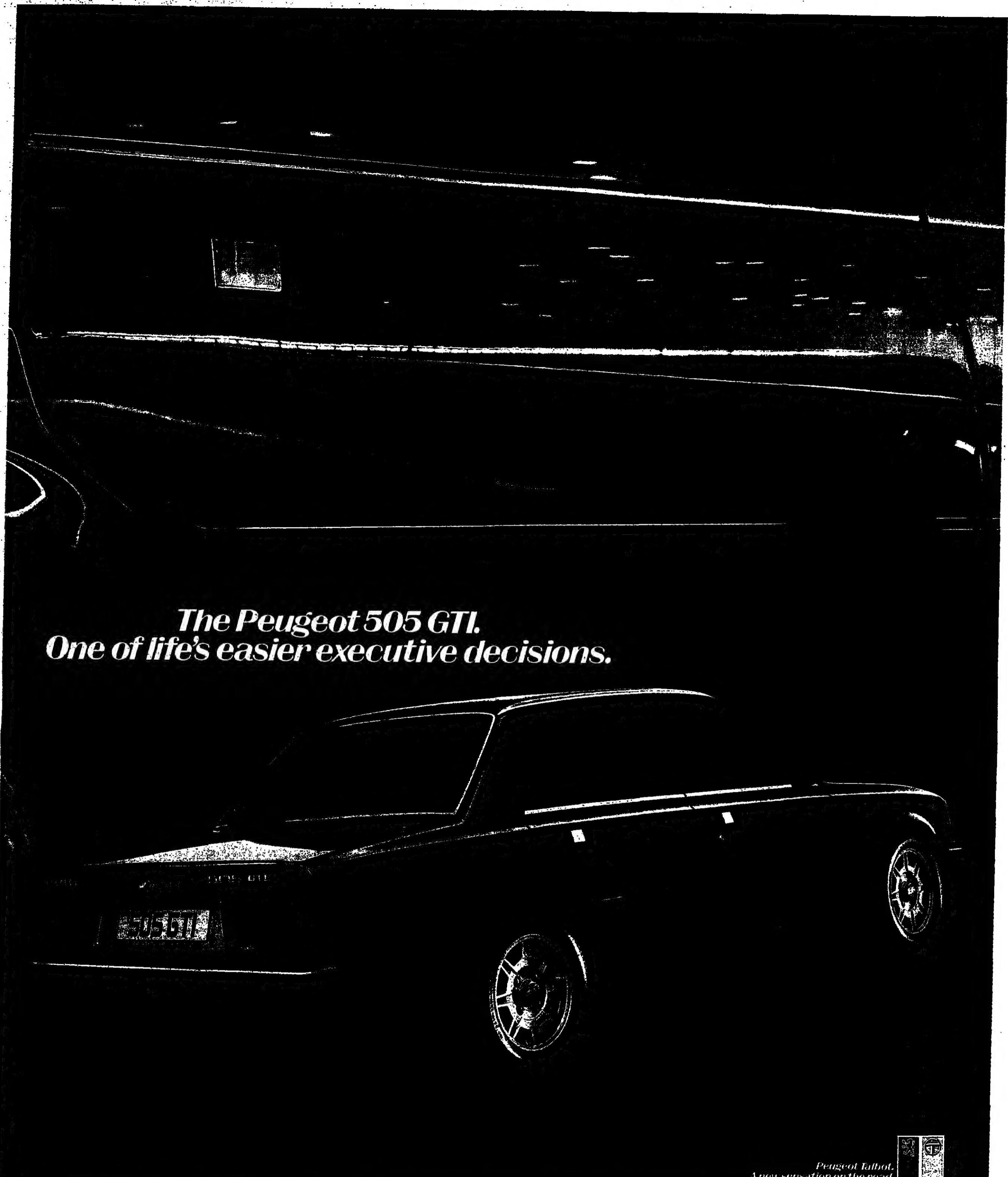
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THE marriage of musical sensibility and sheer technical professionalism that lies behind Charles Mackerras's career as a conductor has no obvious parallel among first-rank maestros. You can find Muti or Abbado sometimes challenging the received tradition, armed with a purified score of Rossini. Specialist conductors get wheeled out for Bellini or Donizetti, and everybody's on the game of reinstating cuts.

But Mackerras, who is 60 in November, is not just a practical musicologist, student of Handel and Janacek autograph scores, determined not to "flout what the composer imagined." He is also one of the very few British conductors apart from John Pritchard, who can be relied on — anywhere — to stand in at a moment's notice and get an orchestra to do his own performance purely by the way he conducts.

It's a matter of experience, in Mackerras's case, of course; long experience in Germany where the flying maestro is an unavoidable fact of life, and rehearsals are more than likely to involve different players (if not singers) from those who will actually be performers.

"In Germany every Tom, Dick and Harry can do it. They have to. It doesn't frighten me to have to stand in front of the Vienna Philharmonic and conduct *Traviata* without a rehearsal. Or *Rosencavalier*, which I did."

Mackerras was astounded to be asked to do the Strauss in Vienna, and was even more intrigued to be offered one rehearsal: "I said to my various friends in the orchestra, should I take this rehearsal? And the answer from all of them was, if it was five rehearsals, do them. But for one, don't do it."

"So I took their advice and conducted *Rosencavalier*, which is very hard, without any orchestral rehearsal. It was one of the greatest performances of my career — at least I think it was — and got very good reviews from those bastards in the press."

Was it tricky, that kind of conducting? "Partly tricky, or knowing the trick. Being able to do it. Partly it's having a bit of sangfroid, not being overawed by it."

"The other notable thing is to have courage, not to succumb to the temptation of being careful all the time, wondering if this singer will hold that note longer or



Sir Charles Mackerras: partly trickery, sangfroid and personality—picture by Kenneth Saunders

Tom Sutcliffe meets an opera conductor who makes authenticity the servant to performance

The maestro stands and delivers

shorter, feeling your way with people. You must know when the conductor has to take over, and when you have to allow the singer to decide.

"Then there's the personality of the conductor, what the Germans call *ausstrahlung*, projection. Of course it's good to rehearse things carefully, but when a work is very well known, and everybody knows what they are doing, you can often get a very good performance without rehearsal."

Mackerras says plenty of conductors can do it, and an orchestra isn't fooled. "It only takes the first three chords at the start of *The Magic Flute* to show the players if you can conduct it or not. And by the way, even if orchestras are well disposed towards the conductor, they often play badly if the singing is bad."

His formidable understanding of performance was fully exploited for the English National Opera's revival of *Tosca* last month, when Mackerras stepped in at short notice to substitute for Gaetano Delogu and found himself nursing a *Tosca* entirely new to the role. "I watched to accompany her very carefully, and gave cues. I might not otherwise have given a singer."

The last time he'd done *Tosca* in English was in the Sixties with a different translation. "If it's a quick conversation opera, such as a Strauss or a Puccini, I make sure I can hear the words. That means actually suppressing the orchestra."

That's needed for Janacek too, he says, and especially

for the opening of *Rosencavalier* where the initial orchestral organises the players on to an impossibly high decibel level, regardless of the conversational tone of what follows.

Mackerras's favourite conductor was Furtwängler, who he admits sprang from a musical tradition innocent of academic considerations. Furtwängler did all sorts of things that weren't what the composer intended — like the cellos and basses holding their note an extra beat in the second bar of Don Giovanni — but made sense of it marvellously. "I, not being Furtwängler, would rather do what the composer intended," says Mackerras, suggesting that musicology is partly an engine for his interpretative mechanism.

But many of the discover-

ies made as a result of Mackerras's scrupulous attention to autographs are very significant, precisely because of their practical consequences. He has just found that the start of Schubert's *Great C* major is marked "all breve" in cut common time, meaning a slow two in a bar. And a slow two, he points out, creates an entirely different sensation from a quick four, which may apparently signify the identical tempo.

Mozart's slow music (marked *ad lib*) has been getting slower in performance because it's so impressive, four in a bar. For the Welsh National Don Giovanni, Mackerras took care to do the sections in slow two bars, rather than the faster tempo. And he was very depressed when the

Berghaus staging got all the reviews and almost nobody noticed how much careful authenticity — like loud trumpets and timpani played with wood and rolled like snare drums — lay in the musical performance.

Mackerras wants to make authenticity his servant rather than our master. He's dead against the lack of intensity and expressiveness in so many early music performances. The mistake, he thinks, is that singing appears to be made to conform with the limitations of instrument technology of the period, whereas the development of instruments was probably in pursuit of vocal capabilities.

The virtuosity of the conductor can't have been like these terrible bland performances the authentic people turn out. But I do love the

springy rhythms and decaying of the notes, the general rhythmic beauty of the authentic style, and for the ENO Xerxes I am striving to get that style from the orchestra. They've gone to a lot of trouble to redo the bowing. I want these aspects of the authentic style with out the often scratchy tone and inexpressiveness of the authentic people."

With Noel Davies, Mackerras has prepared a new Xerxes edition for publication by Chertsey, in the translation by the producer, Nicholas Hyslop. The manuscript is in the British Library, and Mackerras has worked with a photocopy throughout rehearsals.

"I've found the most huge number of mistakes that have never been in any other edition. And the reason I've been able to sort things out so accurately is that, unlike the academic musicologists, I am able to see what's not right the moment I hear it played. I'm not more observant than the real scholars: there are five or six mistakes in every act. My heart leapt into my mouth for one blotted second when I thought I'd found a mistake in Handel's *Largo*. But I'm afraid it was merely an illusion."

Some of the Xerxes score is almost illegible. It seems to have been done by composers to specialise in Janacek and Handel, who make it very difficult for you because you can't read their writing. Handel's manuscripts are dreadful, Janacek's are worse — because orchestration is far more complicated with Janacek than it was in Handel's day. And Janacek, who evidently disliked proof-reading, certainly scores as a composer when they are littered with errors.

The casualness about such details, however, indicates a healthy lack of pretension with which Mackerras is fully in sympathy. Mozart's scribbles are like Shakespeare's plays, not intended as finished records. And Handel, even more than Mozart, was happy to borrow and transform any material that came to hand — just like Shakespeare.

What mattered was the seriousness of the moment, what mattered was performance over which the creator at the time had full power. And Mackerras brings his conductor's technique and musical devotion to the service of that original and unpretentious inspiration, about which he is passionate and uncompromising.

Robin Denslow reviews new rock records

Velvet touch

THERE has been a 17-year wait for the most intriguing release of the week, but the Velvet Underground's *Velvet Underground* (Polydor) has survived so well that many of the tracks put Eighties rivals to shame. Recorded between 1968 and 1969, this would have been the band's fourth studio album had it been released at the time. Instead, it languished in record company vaults as the band swapped companies before breaking up, leaving Lou Reed and John Cale to follow their unevenly brilliant solo careers.

After all these years, the "missing" VU set comes over not just as some historical curiosity, but as a remarkably lively, even uncannily contemporary-sounding work.

While most of the late Sixties heroes were involved in bluesy or folksy developments of psychedelia, and operating in Britain or the West Coast, the Velvets were in New York, developing a unique guitar-based sound that relied on tight, sometimes raucous playing, and Reed's personal narrative lyrics, rather than extended solos. *My Best Friend* sounds like an early Ramones rocker. Reed's notion is a blend of Reed drawl and solid R and B, while *The Ocean* is a mood piece using heavy drumming and a wash of guitars, and *Stephanie Says* shows a more poppy, especially when Cale brought out his viola. Despite their influence the Velvets were never massively commercial. After all this time, they deserve a best-seller.

Grandmaster Flash. They said I couldn't be none (Elektra). In the Velvet Underground, the mood of New York at the late Sixties, Grandmaster Flash has done the same for black New Yorkers in the Eighties. The best-known exponent of scratching, rap and especially his conductor's technique, the Message and White Lines, he has now moved to Elektra and, perhaps inevitably, introduced a more mainstream R and B feel into his work.

Obviously, Flash is no longer happy to record a full album of nothing but rap and rhythmic scratching effects, for he dilutes the mixture with funk dance pieces, or a soulful ballad like *Paradise*.

Far better are the bragging tributes to Flash's skills, like *Alternative Groove*, and the current rap in which Flash, tradition, Sign Of The Times, The Firm (Atlantic). A guaranteed money-spinner if ever there was, this new band is in the dubious tradition of the Seventies super-groups, relying on the coupling of two once very famous names. Jimmy Page, guitar, and the Yardbirds, and then a star with Led Zeppelin, teams up with Paul Rodgers, singer with Free and Bad Company.

The result is a classy if somewhat predictable set. Leonard Cohen's *Various Positions* (CBS). Another legend from the archives makes a comeback, with a collection that surely matches any of his earlier work.

This set is far better produced than the curious experimental *Death Of A Lady's Man*, and contains a series of songs about love, life and death in which Cohen's deep croon is supported by Jennifer Warnes and backing that ranges from jaunty Greek dance styles to country.

It's an attractive album, if you like Cohen's voice as it is, and the moving romance of the opening tracks is matched by lyrics shot through with religious references that range from the clever Hallelujah to the death obsession of *Night Comes On*.

Al Green's *Trust In God* (Hi Records/Demon). The man blessed with one of the greatest soul and R&B voices of them all, who sold 20 million records and caused riots in the early Seventies, has in recent years moved back to the gospel styles with which he started. As he's become less obviously commercial, it's become harder to obtain his records in Britain, but his new set shows that wonderful light and sensual voice is still intact. Despite the title, this is not simply a gospel set so rolling, easy-going R&B songs like *The Ladder To The Roof* are included alongside the title track, which shows off his high, pure voice on a ballad.

Phil Collins' *No Jacket Required* (Virgin). Guaranteed to be one of the best-selling of the year, this is Collins' third solo album, away from Genesis and shows him developing his skills both as an exponent of black-influenced dance styles, using synthesizers and electronic percussion as well as drums, and as a balladeer. As he's been playing at the Albert Hall all week, he's a versatile, energetic performer, and the selection here ranges from the driving *Don't Lose My Number*, with drum machines matched against Darryl Stuermer's electric guitar work to a stirring ballad, *Fake Plastic Trees*, with Helen Terry, Sting and former Genesis singer Peter Gabriel joining in the chorus. I find Collins' style, pleasant and impressive, rather than smug.

TELEVISION

Hugh Hebert

There Comes A Time...

WHICHEVER button you pushed last night, on pranced players trying hard to live up to, or live down, the parts that made them famous. There was Martin Shaw heading for the last place on earth, Susan Woodbridge and Geraldine James in flight from the Raj, George Cole on the run from Minder, and Andrew Sachs tearing off his writer's pea jacket. Great fun for them, but a bit confusing for the punters. Television is stereotypes or it is nothing.

In the first episode of *There Comes A Time* (Yorkshire), Sachs plays a

company director who doesn't like the look in his doctor's eye, decides to keep fit, and is then told he is a medical phenomenon. The only British victim of a condition so clock-like and predictable in its progress that the busy executive can fit his schedule round it. This is billed as a situation comedy. But any comedy there turns out to be entirely incidental so far, and nothing to do with the central situation, which is rather less amusing than piles.

To make this kind of thing funny, you have to be thoroughly outrageous, totally OTT, an approach that sometimes reduces you to a wheeled heap with shameful laughter. But Sachs is too gentle and subtle a comic actor to mix into this uncertain concoction.

Not that this concoction is much more uncertain than Blott on the Landscape (BBC4), which often veers drunkenly between farce and satire. It has improved

slightly at its mid-way point, with Geraldine James keeping better control over her bodice and her imitation Margaret Rutherford.

The plot has thickened, with Sir Giles blackmailing the Ministry man, the inquiry judge, and pouring verbal poison. Claudius-like, in a fellow MP's ear. But for those who like its more robust humorous aspects, the opening and closing sequences remained firmly in the arrested development, or *quintessence* phase of British romping comedy. Carry On up the Gorge.

MANCHESTER/RADIO 3

David Fanning

Maxwell

Davies prem.



Peter Maxwell Davies

HONOUR at last for Peter Maxwell Davies in his home town. Edward Downes and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra have already provided it in generous measure with their performances of his Second Symphony, now with their stirring premiere of the Third, enthusiastically received at the Free Trade Hall and scheduled for TV broadcast at the weekend, Manchester's longstanding debt has surely been paid off.

Like its predecessors, the Third Symphony has turned out at around 50 minutes and in four closely argued movements based on the traditional model. This time the outer movements, at around 19 minutes and the inner ones, at around seven, are

carefully balanced out, the finale as a "double" of the first movement, and one scherzo as a distortion of the other.

The concern with proportion goes beyond that. Davies draws on the metaphor of Renaissance church architecture to clarify his attitude to large and small scale structure; and in his weekend lecture at Manchester University, he stressed the composer's notion of movement, the mediating force between spatial and temporal concepts. When the music strikes home it is this intoxicating sense of moving within the music that grips the listener. In this same lecture Davies

was disarmingly honest about his difficulties with developmental writing. Which may be partly why this feeling seems more intermittent than in his Second Symphony (where seascape imagery provides more immediately memorable musical landmarks).

The new symphony certainly starts and finishes superbly — not just with the trumpet and double bass gestures at its birth and death, but the first movement's accelerating argument and the finale's drive to its unerring C sharp minor cadence.

In between there are striking passages — the eerie calm before the finale onslaught for one.

Whatever its ultimate status, this is a profoundly serious work, the composer at full stretch and commensurate demands made on players and listeners. The BBC Philharmonic deserves the chance to present its challenge as widely and as often as possible.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

BLOOMSBURY

Edward Greenfield

Edgar and Le Villi

PUCCHINI's first two operas have had little showing in this country and it is a pity. Both Le Villi and Edgar, chunky dramatically in different ways, introduce a rich vein of melody not fully Puccini but strong and memorable. It was an excellent idea obvious but unexpected, of University College Opera to present the two in double bill.

The earlier of the two, Le Villi, a version of the Giselle story completed in 1884, is the more effective and original, an opera ballet that now deserves to be presented on a grand scale. In this production by Stefan Janski the ballet was extended even beyond what Puccini intended.

Roberto the fathless lover and Anna the girl who became the Cheek by Jowl company have brought to Exeter this week at the start of a national tour. Deenan Donnelly's production, designed by Nick Ormerod, takes its cue from an early remark by Theobald: "Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword."

Everyone smoulders. The actors wear modern dress and act with modern manners. Postures and gestures, as well as the right clothes to convey, underline the tensions of an uncomfortable society. There is a pecking order in Athens; it may be unspoken but it is not invisible.

Theseus, Hippolyta and Philostrate are doubled up with Oberon, Titania and an erotic anarchist of a Fucc. Thus is suggested a sexual contract running beneath the

standing, triumphant, when the real Roberto lies dead.

Though the idea, being problems and confusions, and the distraction of a happy dancing during arias can be irritating, the piece is simple enough to stand the extra dimension. The added ballet sequences danced by Daniel Thomas and Melanie Ireland to the choreography of Frank Freeman, effectively complement rather than undermine the set-piece dances of villagers and willis.

Geoffrey Pogson was a lusty Roberto, Elizabeth Byrne a pale, less secure, Anna, but it was Patrick Donnelly as Anna's father, Guglielmo who stole the show. Monks, Christopher Yildell, after a shaky start, drew aptly red-blooded playing and singing from the eager UCL Opera Chorus and Orchestra.

Edgar, a curious mix of Carmen and Tannhäuser, seriously flawed even after two decades of tinkering by the composer, fared less well with the inevitable limitations of such part-amateur performance.

Edgar actually enacts in Act 3 the common-sense fantasy of being present at his own funeral (just why it is not made plain), and it was quite an achievement for producer and designer to observe so many stage instructions with such realism. Patrick Donnelly in a small role again stood out, and Carol Rowlands presented, the impossible Tigrana with spirit and faith, but it was the ensemble work which saved the day, giving flesh and blood to some of the piece's best music. The double-bill is being repeated tomorrow and Saturday.

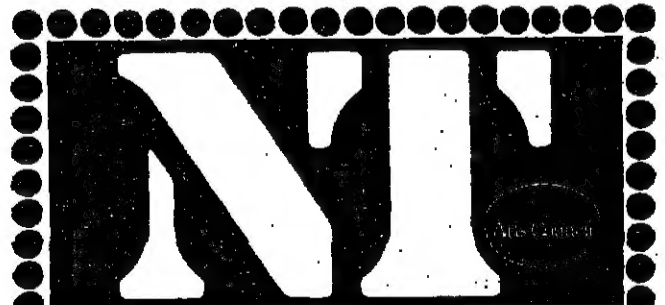
EXETER

Nicolas Cottis

Midsummer Night's Dream

IT IS a two-edged and rather menacing *Midsummer Night's Dream* that the Cheek by Jowl company have brought to Exeter this week at the start of a national tour. Deenan Donnelly's production, designed by Nick Ormerod, takes its cue from an early remark by Theobald: "Hippolyta, I wooed thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword, and won thee with my sword."

Theseus, Hippolyta and Philostrate are doubled up with Oberon, Titania and an erotic anarchist of a Fucc. Thus is suggested a sexual contract running beneath the



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Robin Denelow reviews new rock records

Velvet touch

THERE has been a lot of talk about the Velvet Underground, but not much about the band's music. The band's music is a mix of rock, pop, and avant-garde. It is a mix of the best and the worst of rock music. The band's music is a mix of the best and the worst of rock music. The band's music is a mix of the best and the worst of rock music.

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Above, Sally Field in *Places in the Heart*; right, Jonathan Pryce in a fantasy sequence from *Brazil*

Derek Malcolm reviews Terry Gilliam's *Brazil*, *Places in the Heart*, and a new Resnais film

Flight of fantasy from Airstrip One

ONE OF the bonuses of the current British revival is the small but steadily increasing number of films which can in no way be described as typical British, either in style or content. Terry Gilliam is, of course, the American Python, so perhaps it is not surprising that *Brazil* (Odeon, Leicester Square, 15), easily his most ambitious project, will tell those who still think a British project likely to be graced by familiar virtues or disgraced by a fundamental lack of flair.

The film, which is certainly not American in either look or feel, can take an honourable place beside *The Draughtsman's Contract*, *The Company of Wolves*, 1984 and *The Killing Fields* as the kind of tour de force triumph specifically did not mean when he depreciated our entire output some time before the revival had got under way.

Gilliam calls *Brazil*, among a lot of other things, "Walter Mitty meets Frank Kafka" and one hears the Americans, upon whom as usual so much depends, are worried about both its length (2 hours, 22 minutes) and its tone, which is much more dark than light.

Though the film could certainly do with cutting, *Brazil* is the kind of fantasy that would be totally captivated by an upbeat ending, and the young, who will certainly be its most appreciative audience, will know that in their bones.

The Walter Mitty is Jonathan Pryce, an unprepossessing young bureaucrat whose fantasy life (dreaming about rescuing a blonde Venus from inescapable terror) assumes considerably more importance than his work until he spots the girl — a rebellious member of the totalitarian society which he has hitherto accepted with scarcely a qualm.

This is where Kafka comes in since the world with which we are presented is a creaking state which feeds upon malfunctioning technology, will not brook argument, and certainly has no time for human passion. *Brazil* is not the place where the nuts come from, but Fritz Lang's Metro-

polis crossed with Orwell's *Airstrip One*. It is, however, much more of a dreamland than either, where you giggle there, and clearly intends the film as a glowing tribute to the tenacity of those little people from which, he readily admits, he escaped at the earliest possible moment.

As usual, Gilliam has more ideas than sense, and one is never very convinced that the nightmare is anything but that. Yet the film does have extraordinary visual force, thanks to superb cinematography and production design, and an urgency that, even at its present inordinate length, never quite deserts it.

Gilliam's approach, and it is very much his film, is to invite us to laugh and then wonder why we're doing so. The benefits are considerable, even though parts of the whole don't work and the constant changing of gear towards the end have less and less of their desired impact. And it is not only the film which changes gear but the acting styles displayed in it.

Only Pryce provides a steady centre, though Michael Palin, Kim Greist, and Robert De Niro (in a cameo) are carefully discreet. The others — Ian Holm, Bob Hoskins, and Peter Vaughan among them — go through the film with a sense of humour that is not only a pleasure but a pleasure in its own right.

So the whole is not an unalloyed pleasure. But a pleasure it certainly is, because of the insistent power of its imagination, the brilliance of much of the imagery, and the restless energy displayed in almost every sequence. Time Bandits was underrated here, and the same might just happen to *Brazil*. The public, though, may well look to it as a masterpiece.

I have no doubt that Robert Benton's Oscar-nominated *Places in the Heart* (Classic, Haymarket, PG) is a sincere film. But I find it pretty egregiously just the same, covered with a thin layer of sentimentality that consistently prevents it packing the emotional punch intended.

Set in the Thirties, it stars Sally Field as a young widow

struggling to keep her family together in Waxedahchie, Texas, without much money or hope. Benton was born there, and clearly intends the film as a glowing tribute to the tenacity of those little people from which, he readily admits, he escaped at the earliest possible moment.

This, I suppose, is known as confronting one's past from a safe distance. And that's exactly what this attractive, sentimental film seems like, producing a final scene of terrible banality when the leading characters, black and white, sit together in church, all racism and conflict forgotten. It is supposed to be a fantasy coda but it adds a totally false optimism to the picture.

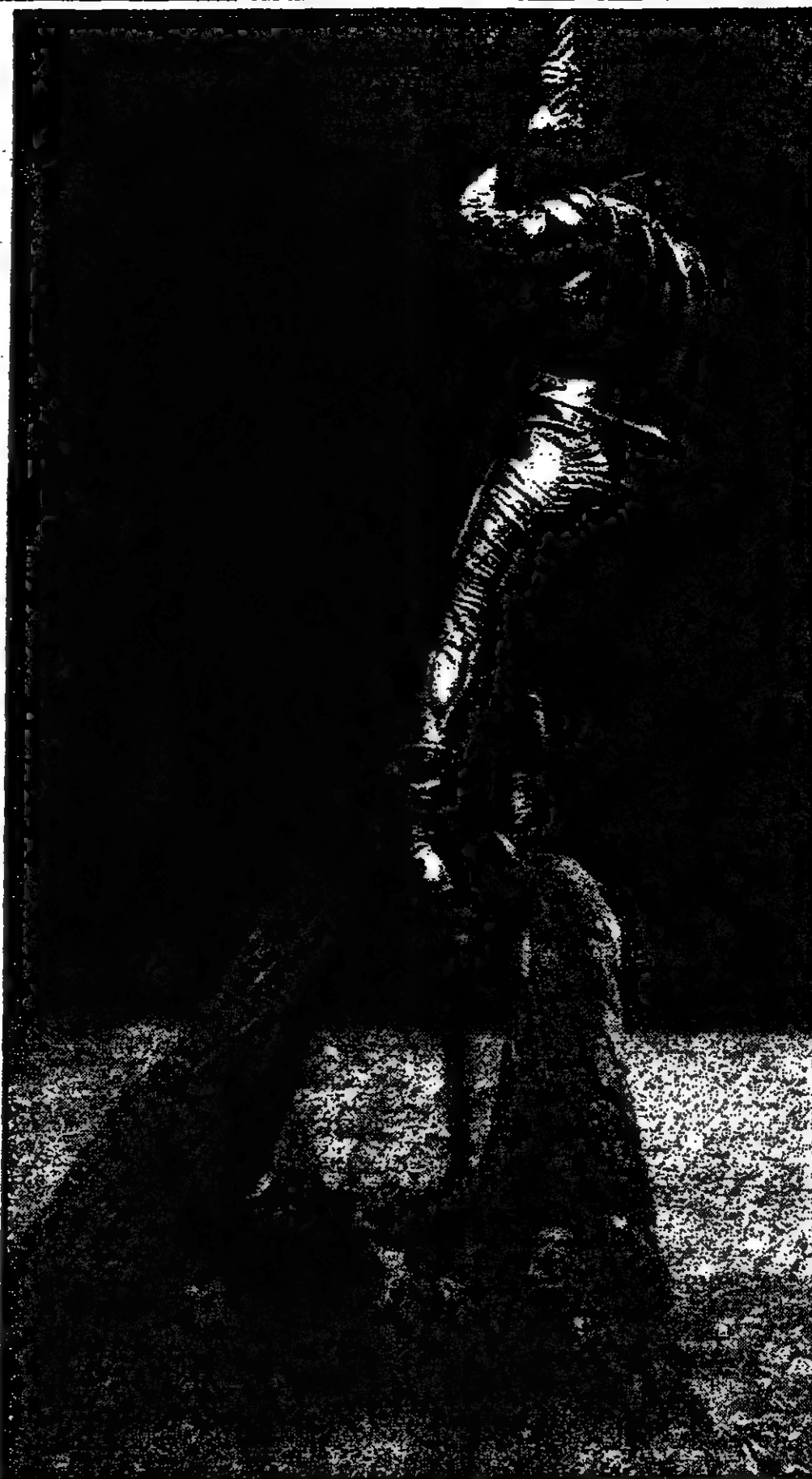
Otherwise one has to confess that Sally Field's vulnerable but obstinately hopeful widow is an affecting performance, though very much of the kind we have seen from her before in such films as *Martin Ritt's Norma Rae*.

The film also looks good, thanks to Nestor Almendros's re-creation of the Depression Years in small-town America. But this widow is surely just too saintly to be true, as she takes in not only Danny Glover's itinerant black worker but also a blind boarder (John Malkovich), both of whom need more protection even than her from the depredations of the time.

Still, the entire cast, including the children, give suitably heart-warming performances which it would probably take a cynic like me to suspect of trying just a little too hard. *Places in the Heart* you may have gathered, has only a very small place in mine, popular as it may very well turn out to be.

After the failure of the expensive *La Vie Est Un Roman*, which came and went very quickly last year, Alain Resnais decided to make a much cheaper project as quickly as possible. The result is *L'Amour a Mort* (Berkeley, Tottenham Court Road, Arts, Chelsea, 15).

But though much less money and time were spent on this project than on the



usual Resnais film, it can't be said to be in any way skimpy. That is not Resnais's way. It is a chamber piece rather than an epic, written by Jean Gruault, who provided the screenplay for his last two films, and with a score by Hans-Werner Henze, who wrote the music for *Muriel*.

Shot in CinemaScope and set in an austere provincial French town, it presents us with two couples one of whom suffers a terrible crisis. Elisabeth (Sabine Azema) and Simon (Pierre Arditi) have been living together for only a few months when Simon collapses in the night and is pronounced dead. Elisabeth is desolate until he calmly walks down to breakfast the next morning with nothing apparently wrong with him.

But of course there is. He has been badly shocked by his visit to the unknown and

gradually seems to give up on life. Finally he dies again, this time for keeps. And the question is: will Elisabeth choose suicide, and is it an act of faith or self-destruction?

This is where the other couple come in since Judith (Fanny Ardant) and Jerome (Andre Dussollier) are ordained pastors of the Protestant faith who try to guide Elisabeth through her unhappiness.

The music in the film is important since both it and the story are conceived in three movements, intercut by a series of interludes. Each time a space appears on the screen it is seemingly filled with falling snow, though it is meant to represent the cosmos in some way.

It is not an easy film, but it is not a depressing one since the ending is affirmative in Resnais's view — a triumph of love and faith. Whether you

will appreciate the argument very much depends on whether or not this kind of rather rarefied French intensity strikes you as pretentious and arid.

What one can say is that the cast play it with suitable attention to detail, and that it is excellently shot, and that Resnais's formal command of style has never been more obvious. A daring experiment and an intriguing one.

In *Missing in Action* (Classic, Oxford Street, etc, 15) Chuck Norris plays an American army colonel who returns to Vietnam to rescue captured buddies — both the CIA and the Vietnamese have denied are there. Joseph Zito, the director, ensures that it's an action picture, the very reverse of Resnais's. The philosophical argument is Resnais's — a kind of adult version of *The A Team*.

Vanessa Redgrave tipped for a prize

Richard Roud reports from the Berlin festival

Space oddity

THE 35th Berlin Film Festival got off with something of a dull thud with the opening night film 2010, shown out of competition.

As its title suggests, it is meant to be a kind of sequel to Stanley Kubrick's 2001 and, like that film, is based on a novel by Arthur C. Clarke. The good old monolith is back: the now-famous opening chords of Richard Strauss's *Thus Spake Zarathustra* still punctuate the film; and a computer now called HAL 9000 plays an important role. Thereafter all resemblances cease.

I was not one of the greatest fans of Kubrick's space odyssey, but in comparison with this sequel it now looks like something of a masterpiece. 2010 was produced, directed, written, and even photographed by Peter Hyams.

There are some misguided people who maintain that no film can truly be a personal work of art unless it is written by the same person who directs it. I have always thought this to be a foolish notion; one can prefer the operas of Wagner to those of Mozart, but not because Mozart didn't write the libretto himself: film, like opera, is often a dialectical medium where the play between two minds is often selflessly what makes the thing work.

In any case, whether or not it is generally advisable for the director to write the script (let alone produce and photograph a film) it has not worked in this case. There is one big surprise towards the end of the film which it would be criminal to give away, not because it is particularly exciting, but at least it will keep you in your seat. I suppose that since the main retrospective here this year is devoted to special effects, it must have seemed like a good idea to open with a film that relies heavily on such effects; it should have been resisted.

The first of the two British films in competition was *Wetherby* which, although on an altogether higher plane than 2010, has one thing in common with it: it was written and directed by one person — David Hare. And I think that, here too, the film has suffered from having one man do both things. It was well enough received, and some people are predicting an Academy Award nomination for Vanessa Redgrave (whose daughter, Joely Richardson, playing the same character as a young girl is also superb).

Since the film is opening shortly in Britain, I'll say no more about it — something of a blessing because it is a difficult film to write about, especially amid the sensory overload of a film festival. But it is certainly worth seeing.

Another well received film in competition was Robert Benton's *Places in the Heart*, which is reviewed elsewhere on this page. Just one note: the rather extraordinary final scene is a dream sequence, the director explained. Not everyone here got that straight, but it will, I imagine, be less of a problem in Britain.

The Berlin Film Festival, ever since 1969, has been divided into two distinct



almost warring factions: the main event and the forum of young films. This alternative festival is composed of many elements: documentaries, experimental films, films ineligible for competition because already shown at other festivals (there are a lot of films from London in it this year). And they also do show a few older films.

The hit of the festival so far has been, believe it or not (and I wouldn't have if I hadn't seen it), that old film society chestnut, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*.

There were four good reasons for this excitement. First, the print in Monte-video of all places a United print of the film was discovered, and we all know now what a difference colour can make to a film, and especially a film like this where the visuals are so beautiful.

To that print were added a few missing scenes from a print in London, but much more important, right here in Berlin they found the original inter-title — which are works of art in themselves. It's not just that the lettering is distinctively Expressionistic, but the words are backed by strange blobs and geometrical shapes, which make the usually annoying inter-titles an integral part of the film.

Then there was a small live orchestra playing an arrangement of the original score for the film. How close it is, I cannot say, but it sounded terrific. It's not great music, although it does seem to borrow and/or adapt pieces of well-known music — the Agamemnon motif — from Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, slightly altered, keeps turning up — but there are pre-echoes of Kurt Weill, and reminiscences of early Schoenberg.

The point is that the music goes a long way towards projecting us backwards to 1918 when the film first came out in a defeated and demoralised Berlin. A few people seem to have come along to giggle — silent films are so camp — but to a large degree it was the music that stopped them, and the film was received in rapt silence.

Apart from the tinted print, the music, there was a fourth element that made this forum of young films presentation so exciting, and that was the fact that we were seeing it in Berlin. The city has of course changed tremendously since 1918, but here and there buildings, shop-fronts, old painted signs still remain from the Berlin of the Twenties. And Caligari, as one always knew but never so strongly as now, could only have been made in Germany. Both the form and the content of the film belong very specifically to a time and a place.

Film historians always point out that Caligari was something of a blind alley, a "spec" in the biological sense, and that is true. But when seen in a way that approximates to its original screenings, it really does look like the masterpiece that it was thought to be at the time: 65 years old, and scarcely a wrinkle.

BRIEFING



Tom Hulce: *Amadeus*

Best films

Amadeus (ABC, Shaftesbury Ave): Milos Forman's handsome, if somewhat academic, opening out of the celebrated Peter Shaffer play.

The Key (Odeon, Haymarket): Distilled by many, this struck me as a fluent and humorous foray into the tricky terrain of erotic tragedy-comedy.

Blood Simple (Warner, etc): Ingenious and stylish Texas murder mela, marred in the end by a surfeit of gore.

Repo Man (Camden Plaza):

An odd and often invigorating mélange of punk, film noir and sci-fi set in the lower depths of LA.

All Of Me (releaser): Steve Martin and Lily Tomlin in body-swap farce. Rather a ragbag, but engaging after its gross fashion.

Best on TV

Edge of Darkness (today, C4, 4.50): Norwegian-set war movie (1943), directed by Lewis Milestone. Not his best, but intermittently powerful.

The Lemon Drop Kid (today, BBC-2, 7.0): Modestly appealing Damon Runyon adaptation with Bob Hope ideally cast as soft-hearted chiseller.

That'll Be the Day (Fri, BBC-1, 11.15): Ray Connolly-scripted story of a rock star's rise to fame. Sharp detail, some sentimentality.

Arch of Triumph (Sat, BBC-2, 3.10): Bergman and Boyer in Lewis Milestone's version of the Remarque novel. Long and glum, but imposing.

Seven Stagers (Sat, C4, 3.50): Sprightly British comedy-thriller, typical of the manner of its time (1936), with American stars and Laundrey and Gilliat script.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (Sunday, BBC-2, 11.40):

Don Siegel's low-budget 1956 picture, setting paranoid fantasy against an evocation of small-town life, is properly regarded as a sci-fi classic (and streets ahead of the subsequent remake).

Stage Right (Monday, BBC-2, 8.0): Rickman's murder mystery, filmed in 1950. The master seemed to be doing, but the film still has its moments.

Horizons West (Wednesday, BBC-2, 8.0): Well-carpentered small western, directed (1952) by Budd Boetticher. Reliable playing from Robert Ryan, expert colour and decor.

Special interest

Robert De Niro will give a Guardian lecture at the National Film Theatre this Sunday at 6 pm. Tickets at £2.10 will go on sale at the NPT box office on Saturday at 11.30 am. Because of the large demand expected, tickets will be limited to two per annual BFI member.

At the ICA, where Borowczyk's *Dr Jekyll* is playing in the main cinema, the Cinematheque will show his *The Beast and Immoral Tales* until Sunday, with a selection of his early shorts next Wednesday and Thursday. At Canada House, a season of Allan King documentaries includes *Rickshaw* (this evening) and ends with a screening on Sunday of King's new film *Who's in Charge?* at which the director will be present.

The Barbican Cinema is showing a selection of recent French movies next week.

including *Divya*, *La Balance* and *Godard's Passion*. The Rio, Dalston, shows *A Private Function* until Wednesday, in a programme that includes *Passport to Pimlico* and the prize-winning short, *A Shocking Accident*. The Everyman, Hampstead, has a Michael Powell double (*The Red Shoes*, *Black Narcissus*) on Sunday afternoon, with three Ingmar Bergman movies showing on Sunday evening.

The Scala, Kings Cross shows *Liliana Cavani's The Night Porter* until next Thursday in a double-bill with the director's more recent *Beyond the Door*.

The Arts, Cambridge, screens Ray's *The Home And The World* until Saturday, and changes pace next week with John Sayles's *Brother From Another Planet*. Greg-

ory Nava's moving *El Norte* continues until Tuesday at the Arncliffe, Bristol. At the Bristol Watershed, Alex Cox's *Repo Man* can be seen all next week.

Disney's immortal *Lady And The Tramp* is showing at Theatre Chyd: Muld, until Saturday. Films at the Anvil, Sheffield, next week include the Talking Heads movie *Stop Making Sense* and Paul Cox's *Appealing Lonely Hearts*.

The sci-fi season at Bradford Museum of Photography ends with Tarkovsky's *Solaris* (Sat and Sun) and *Man With The X-Ray Eyes* (Tues and Wed). Sally Potter's *The Gold Diggers* are being shown tomorrow evening at North By Northwest Film Society, Manchester.

Tim Puleine

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The singer and the varied song

Durable politicians, of course, become well practised in making speeches their (various) audiences wish to hear. Viz: Mr Ronald Reagan cheerily denouncing the "evil empire" to a convention of born-again Christians. But the business of particular horses for particular courses can go too far: and Mrs Margaret Thatcher seemed at least a water jump and a hot flush over the top when she spoke to the US Congress yesterday.

There was calculation to the speech, no doubt. You can't prosper in American administration eyes if (remember Grenada) you express overt dissent or in any way fail to wrap yourself in the flags of freedom. Even so, the passages yesterday quoting President Brezhnev on the "total triumph of socialism all over the world," the bits about Soviet "global hegemony," subversion and expansionism, and the attack on the "muddled arguments" of those who believe that "Russia's intentions are benign" look a little silly, nay grovelling, when stacked against what the Prime Minister (and an array of champagne popping Secretaries of State) were saying to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev only two brief months ago. Then Mrs Thatcher was hymning the need to "build up confidence and trust in one another and in each other's approach," whilst Downing Street warbled euphorically about the "very good atmosphere" at the Soviet talks.

So what happened? Nothing happened. Only the audience changed yesterday. And one looked in vain for the odd phrase of balance or bridge-building. Even manifest British doubts about Star Wars were stowed away for the occasion, with the moving affirmation that a Bad Idea would be a good deal better if British scientists got a fat share of SDI research contracts.

In fact, of course, the underlying thrust of Mrs Thatcher's speech was directed elsewhere. If one is a Loyal Ally, one can warn — with impact and influence — that America's economic policies (quite out-dated defence as a real Western election issue) must not tumble into protectionism. Such a warning duly came to Congress, and was duly applauded. Well,

we shall — in the next couple of years — have a chance to see the strength of this lever of loyalty. The trouble, already manifest on Capitol Hill, is that the virtues of limitless defence spending against the evil (or benign) empire and the ills of America's budget deficit are not separate issues: they are the two halves of a single problem. Even the Republican leadership in Congress knows that. Even the administration expects the SDI furore to, in the end, prove much ado about very little.

Mrs Thatcher delivered a wonderful commercial for her administration in Washington yesterday. No winking; no quotable questioning; no mention of pure monetary doctrine. But how did she position herself for the debates that must continue after the cheering stops? There may be some temporary benefit now in being perceived as Ronald Reagan's feisty little lady across the water. That, however, is not necessarily a benefit that will endure.

Closing one account

The impressive speed with which the Irish Government and Parliament acted to block funds laundered into Ireland for the IRA shows again that Dublin is prepared to be just as tough as Britain when it conceives itself threatened. Further confirmation would come from a roll-call at Portlaoise prison (where, incidentally, smuggling of explosives has led to body searches every bit as unpleasant as those at Armagh). The new law has, however, already produced murmurs of scepticism in Dublin. Was it mere coincidence that Mrs Thatcher was vehemently appealing to Americans to stop support for Noraid? Mr Michael Noonan, the Minister of Justice, did not give much away about his sources, but Mr Haughey, for the Opposition, was prepared to take him on trust, and that is the right attitude. If anyone chooses to challenge the act there are apparently some constitutional grounds for doing so since it may override the separation of Parliament and the courts. Until that happens the coincidence of Mrs Thatcher's appeal (supported by the Opposition here) should be taken as fortuitous rather than suspicious, for any move designed to cut the IRA's supply line must be wholeheartedly welcomed.

The casuistry which allows the end to justify the means has always run deep within the IRA, but at no time deeper than now. The IRA has been able to shrug off

murder as an unavoidable necessity (or trumpet it as a feat of arms) but the kidnappings for ransom and the extortion and protection rackets to which it has increasingly turned are hard to reconcile with the pure and romantic Ireland of Sinn Féin's propaganda. The old and zealous IRA/Sinn Féin from which the Provisionals are descended has had other offspring, including the Workers' Party which though not yet very effective at election time, is at least clean.

Assuming that the Irish Government has a watertight case, its action is bound to injure the Provisionals — in their morale as well as in their cheque books, though it is important to make a distinction. They depend on conspicuous success. Mr Noonan's bank raid and the capture of the Marista Anne are conspicuous failures for it. But the extent to which the Provisionals are injured depends largely on what sort of organisation they have become. In so far as they are a Mafia (and they are more so today than before) coups of this kind are extremely damaging, for what is the point of graft if the Government takes the money? But in so far as they are still a nationalist organisation they rely on the inspiration of their followers, and that comes free. It would be wrong to underestimate the degree to which that devoted if misguided allegiance can still be called upon.

Acorn a la Milanaise

Acorn, manufacturer of the much acclaimed BBC micro-computer, has been rescued by an Italian knight in the shape of Olivetti which is to take a near 50 per cent stake in the struggling Cambridge enterprise. Taken by itself this is very welcome news, bringing Olivetti's marketing muscle and dealer outlets to bear on a company which, shorn of a certain technological hubris, could still have a successful future. Acorn, ironically, has been highly successful in what may be described as its "mixed economy" activities (developing a micro for the masses in conjunction with the BBC and with support from the Department of Industry) but less successful on its own initiatives like the Electron computer and an ill-fated foray into the United States. It ran into an old-fashioned cash flow crisis by misjudging the pre-Christmas market (leaving it with a micro mountain of Electrons to finance).

You can welcome Olivetti's involvement, though, and still ask questions about the role of the City in financing high technology companies. The worry is that after a brief flirtation with exciting, but high risk companies like Acorn and Sinclair (which has so far done rather better) the City will once again withdraw its entrepreneurial horse and revert to its former Catch 22 stance of only providing risk capital for companies with a proven track record. How, pray, does one get the capital in the first place to acquire the track record? Home computing is one of the very few areas where domestic companies are more than holding their own against the foreign competition. And, at a time when Britain's balance of payments in information technology has, disastrously, worsened tenfold to £2.3 billion in four years that is no mean achievement. Why then were there no UK companies, no Plesseys, GECs or Thornes waiting to provide risk capital for a company at the heart of the information revolution with a strategic foothold in the majority of UK schools?

The sad fact is that the City is still taking a short term view of essentially long term situations. Acorn knows this to its cost. So does Thorn-EMI, which recently took over one of the most exciting (and risky) high tech ventures in the country, Immos, the micro-chip manufacturer. Immos, funded by the last Labour Government in the absence of City interest, confounded its critics last year by making a healthy profit. It now moves into its most risky stage — the production of the transputer (an entire computer on a single chip) at a time when the world wide demand for chips is weakening. As a result the City is downgrading the whole of Thorn's rating. What counts is short term profits, not long term potential.

Ministers should ponder this problem when they consider (any day now) the future of the Greater London Enterprise Board which, in inauspicious circumstances, has won all-party praise for its success thus far in creating jobs from ventures which others shy away from. There is still a desperate need for risk capital to reach the parts which the City cannot, or will not reach.

A pause in Harare

Democratically pluralist elections are not so commonplace in Africa that a sudden decision to put one off for three

months can be cheerfully ignored. But the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, Mr Robert Mugabe, has now been obliged to concede the defeat of his modest ambition to hold an election before the fifth anniversary of his country's formal independence on April 18. Those tempted to see in this deferment some kind of conspiracy to evade the verdict of the electorate on a not altogether unblemished stewardship can confidently be said to be wasting their time. Whenever polling finally takes place, most likely at present in June, the question will surely be not whether Mr Mugabe will win but only by how much. The reasons for the postponement are administrative. The independence election in 1980 was conducted without a black voters' register because there was no time to compile one, and polling took place on a basis of provincial party lists. But when the voters' rolls were closed last week it immediately became clear that large numbers of people had been excluded. The boundary commission created to draw up the new single-member constituencies (the last throw of the Westminster system in Africa?) feels it cannot even begin its work until it knows how many are entitled to vote and where they are.

One may chide the Harare government for failing to see this problem coming and thus ensuring its own embarrassment. No breach of contract is however involved: the 1979 Lancaster House agreement leading to independence calls for an election this year, and the present parliament's mandate expires only in May. One may, however, take a somewhat more serious view of opposition charges that recent changes in electoral law giving aliens the right to vote, enabling some people to obtain more than one registration form and others to cross constituency boundaries to vote are intended to benefit the government. There is also the much-heralded fact that Mr Mugabe, if he wins as expected, is more than likely to take his victory as a mandate to move decisively in the direction of a one-party system, most probably by 1990 when Lancaster House falls away. But the real threat to the election, which may be exacerbated by the delay, is the excessive zeal of Mr Mugabe's own more energetic supporters, who have already shown distressing tendencies to swamp opposition meetings with upsur and violence. In the knowledge that he is the nearest thing to a dead cert in the recent history of democracy, Mr Mugabe would be well advised to use his extra three months to restrain these hotheads, whose behaviour is the only discernible threat to the credibility of his second victory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dying for a cigarette

Sir,—As the famine in North Africa developed during 1984, British tobacco companies were at work in the region reaping the bounty of their aggressive promotional campaigns. Exports of expensive tailor-made cigarettes from Britain from January to September 1984 were: Djibouti 270 million; Ethiopia 183 million; Niger 50 million; Somalia 42 million; Sudan 541 million; and Burkina Faso 78 million. These imports have to be paid for in the hard currency these countries so desperately lack and this saps their ability to pay for essentials like agricultural and infrastructural development.

Peter Temple, a British stockbroker, advised the tobacco industry in 1983 that a major factor enhancing tobacco export possibilities from developed countries to the Third World was the perception of cigarettes as an affordable luxury in the poorer areas of the world.

Tobacco advertising, as the cutting-edge of the industry's marketing programme, gives mass currency to this totally cynical perception. A British director has stated that "where promotion is concerned, our managers in developing countries are aware that local practices should not be incompatible with promotional standards in the industrialised nations." Yet tobacco advertising in most parts of Africa represents some of the most lurid efforts anywhere in the world to associate smoking with dreamlike promises of prestige, power, freedom and luxury.

One need look no further than the absent health warnings on African ads to see just how hard British subsidiaries are climbing over themselves to ensure the parent companies' directives are followed.

Nowhere is the success of tobacco marketing more poignant than in those parts of the world where millions starve. People who do not smoke spend the money they would otherwise spend on tobacco on other items. Essentials like food, clothing, shelter and medicines are often far beyond the means of the millions of families on marginal survival incomes.

British doctor Nicolas Cohen has calculated that smoking five cigarettes a day in a poor household in Bangladesh might lead to a monthly dietary deficit of 8,000 calories. This is nearly a quarter of the monthly maintenance energy requirements (at 100 calories/kg/day) of a 12 kg child. In Bangladesh, this means that each year, the prospects for survival of some 18,000 children would be halved. Would BAT care to calculate its own contribution to the famine in North Africa?—Yours sincerely,

Simon Chapman.

International Organisation of Consumer Unions, The Hague, Netherlands.

A parliamentary lobby that threatens to destroy tolerance

Sir,—I was appalled to read of the success of Enoch Powell's Private Member's Bill on embryo fertilisation which, as your Leader of 18 February quite rightly points out, pre-empted the full legislative debate on this important issue which is soon to take place on the Warnock Report.

Working as I do at the House of Commons, I know only too well the pressure which was put upon every MP, not just on this Bill but on the "Gillick" Bill and when the Warnock recommendations were published, indeed on anything which offends Catholic sensibilities. The tactics of any faction within the Labour Party fade into insignificance beside the Catholic lobby: millions of identical letters, directed from the pulpit, scraps of paper with stereotyped letters from the backs of parish magazines, even letters from primary schoolchildren flood into our desks every day before discussion of any issue of contraception or abortion.

It is significant that when news of the Ethiopian fam-

ine broke at the same time as the Warnock recommendations were published, many MPs with a high proportion of Catholics in their constituencies received thousands of letters against Warnock, but only a handful on Ethiopia. What obscene priority is it that care for the unborn more than the born?

MPs also receive phone calls from Spic and Life, and their fanatical adherents, which threaten the withdrawal of thousands of votes at future elections. Any material seat with Catholic voters is at risk from this blackmailing form of "desecration." Other seats with larger majorities can become marginals if the Catholic vote is withdrawn. All this is irrespective of how good an MP has been on other issues of national or international importance, or of equal compassion. This would be acceptable in the UK, where the Catholic vote is withdrawn from a country, but it is not. Nor is it a particularly religious country, as church attendances and many surveys have shown. Indeed our country has been famous

since the Reformation for religious tolerance.

However, the Catholic lobby is threatening to destroy that tolerance by imposing its Vatican-directed views upon a tolerant Protestant nation. It is time that those of us who hold no brief for any particular religion but value religious tolerance dearly, started making our protests to MPs. What grieved me most about the slavish way in which MPs trooped through the lobby for Mr Powell's Bill is the second clause about the secretary of state having to authorise a "named woman" to have an embryo implantation. This is an awful piece of genetic and social engineering, but this is not the point. It is a clause which could decree the colour, race, or creed of the "named" woman. — Yours faithfully, Name and address supplied.

Sir,—Two of your points (Leader, February 18) about the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill are that a large majority in Parliament does

not necessarily reflect public opinion, and that it is too early after the Warnock report to legislate.

It is true that the opinion of a majority of MPs may not be that of the public at large; but, equally, an issue over which there is considerable public feeling may not arouse support in Parliament. But in this case many ordinary people have indicated their feelings by signing a petition, and I for one want to say that the Commons majority reflects my view.

You are right to say there has not been much time for a considered response to the Warnock recommendations (which cover many more issues than does Mr Powell's Bill). But this is a reason for allowing embryo experimentation to continue in the meantime? In view of the moral aspects of the issue, we should call a halt to such experiments while we give ourselves time to think.

It has been suggested that MPs will try to oppose the Bill by time-wasting tactics, to which a private member's measure is especially vulner-

able. This is to be deplored.

When a measure arouses widespread interest in Parliament and in the country — both for and against — its fate should be decided more democratically. The Government should show its respect for public opinion and its interest in the Bill by making enough time available for its later stages, and then allowing MPs to vote in accordance with their consciences. — Yours faithfully, Name and address supplied.

— Infertile couples and those of us who try to help them are appalled by the implications of the Powell Bill. On the day after the debate in Parliament we happened to be with a number of couples awaiting in vitro fertilisation. These couples, the privileged tip of an enormous iceberg of need, have all gone through many years of anguish, and are anxious to embark on a long, arduous, and painful treatment with a perhaps one in 10 chance of success.

Now they face the prospect of this last hope being taken away because what ever the Bill's supporters may say, it is bound to have a disastrous effect on the IVF programme. It is naive to think that the practice of IVF can somehow be separated from research in all IVF work is a continuous clinical trial.

Once again childless couples are expected to pay the price of other people's fundamentalist morality. What is so special about conception? It is just one step on a very long path between life and new life.

If Mr Powell were to be shown a dish with one sperm and one ovum in it, how would he assess it? Does it have the potential to become a unique human being? The moment of conception is being given a magical status to avoid the awkwardness of thinking through difficult and conflicting moral principles, and the infertile are the losers yet again. — Yours faithfully, Name and address supplied.

The literary shredder

Sir,—The Poetry Society, as the leading national organisation concerned with the active promotion of literature, has received notification of a grant from the Arts Council for the coming year.

We are relieved, and grateful, that nothing worse has happened (although this is a cut in real terms) and may demand a curtailment of some of our activities. But we cannot be oblivious to the effects of the severe cut-back in Arts Council literature funding on numerous other client organisations and individual writers. Nor can we be alarmed at reports that the Literature Department is itself to be summarily disbanded — which Mr Richard Purford, in his letter of February 18 makes no shift to deny.

We recall that just under a year ago, on March 20, 1984, a formidable group of distinguished writers signed a letter to the Guardian expressing a fear that the whole principle of Arts Council support for literature might be in jeopardy. The response of the Arts Council management to this and other expressions of concern (including parliamentary questions and most broadly based political bookshops in Britain, the shop has been a symbol of political diversity and freedom of expression for more than 50 years).

We call upon the Collier's board of directors to withdraw its proposal of closure, and thereby safeguard this essential aspect of progressive political life. — Yours faithfully, Raymond Williams, Ralph Miliband, Ken Livingstone, John Lloyd, Michael Meadowcroft, MP, Fred Halliday, E.P. Thompson, London WC2.

Sir,—You describe me (Financial Guardian, February 18) as being the "statutory academic" on the Information Technology Advisory Panel (ITAP). I am not and never have been a member of ITAP. I am not the statutory academic on anything. In the words of Lord Monomark, very bad tabulation. (Prof) Roger Needham, Cambridge.

Sir,—We wish to express our concern at the threat of

Miscellany at large

Sir,—I derived (perverse?) pleasure from noticing on Monday that the price of two of our other "non-tabloid" newspapers now equals that of the Guardian. It is good for us mental health-food addicts to know that the extra protein, vitamins, and minerals of our (almost) healthy diet will, for a time at least, cost no more than the standard fare, with its "permitted added colouring." — Yours, Eric Millward, Hoxton, W Sussex.

Sir,—On Monday the Opposition's case against the Government re the Belgrano sinking affair was sunk without trace. Who, in the Guardian, is responsible for the cover-up of that fact in your reporting to the nation of Monday's proceedings in Parliament? — Yours faithfully, David Maclean, MP, (C. Penrith and The Border), House of Commons.

Sir,—We wish to express our concern at the threat of

Poor options on retirement

Sir,—Your article (February 15) on the possible abolition of the state earnings related pension scheme repeats a number of unsupported and mostly false, assertions by Barbara Castle in introducing the scheme. The most important of these claims is that the scheme particularly helps the low paid.

An earnings related pension scheme, obviously enough, gives higher pensioners and the greater your income the more you

gain. Worse than that, small earnings related pensions are simply set against supplementary benefit entitlement, and so those receiving supplementary pension or housing benefit gain nothing at all.

It would have been difficult to devise a pension scheme that had less to offer the low paid, the unemployed, or the poorest pensioners. — Yours faithfully, J.A. Kay, The Institute for Fiscal Studies, London W1.

Expurgated

Sir,—If the London Library is applying the Anglo-American cataloguing rules, second edition (Letters, February 18) under the title of most books, not just anonymous works as claimed in an earlier letter. Mr Douglas Matthews misses the point, for it has everything to do with cataloguing practice. Librarians know what users should be when faced with a bibliographical "difficulty," merely a failure of the library to provide an answer. A clearly known "Mistaken" feature of a particular book, Russell Sweeney, Leeds Polytechnic School of Librarianship.



Professor Lenihan's morbid review concluded that the problems of the cattle "arose primarily from nutritional imbalances." He should note that cattle grazing near Re-Chem's sister plant at Pontypool have died after displaying identical symptoms.

The review's finding that six cases of babies with serious eye defects in the Forth Valley Health Board area were "not unusual" is astonishing, in view of the well-documented effects of dioxin, even at low concentrations, on the growth and development of the unborn. One might have hoped that the health authorities would have been aroused by the reported cases of similar abnormalities in babies born near the Re-Chem incinerator at Pontypool.

Prof Lenihan admits he doesn't know the cause of the eye problems and has called for more investigation. Few people will be reassured by his report.—Yours, etc, Donald M. Corbett, Taylor's Road, Larnert, Strilingshire.

Fremington pit near Barnstaple has been widely used because it is of particularly clean quality and requires little preparation. My potter had made the jug with this red-brown body and then dipped it into a honey-coloured slip. The Result had been incised in the slip so she appeared as a dark shape on a light background. In the shop, the potter's daughter was preparing new designs while waiting for customers. In my mind, the jug and the slip spanned two industries and two wars. I hardly dared to ask the price but received a pleasant surprise.

BRIAN CHUGG.

A COUNTRY DIARY

DEVON: On my way through Bideford I noticed a jug in the window of a potter's shop. My attention was caught by the decoration in the shape of a graceful, three-masted schooner. The Result, I still remember the vessel plying southern and western coasts and relatives and acquaintances of mine were once part-owners. The ship was launched at Belfast in 1893 and, I believe, now rests near her place of construction. The ship's record goes blank in 1916. My great-uncle simply noted: "Result left here for Barry on Admiralty service." Local people know that she became a Q-ship, lurking

in the shipping lanes ready to outwit enemy submarines. The jug had the almost spherical form of the traditional north Devon harvest jugs. Devon potteries are well served by the underlying geological formations. Good quality clay on the doorsteps of Barnstaple and Bovey Tracey gave rise to potteries as early as the medieval period and, as Torquay mushroomed in the late 19th century, a convenient bed of clay was discovered there. I find in the account book that clay was among the cargoes carried by the Result. The Bovey clay is one of two huge deposits associated with the Dartmoor granite. Clay from the

FUTURES

MICRO GUARDIAN-PLUS THE WORLD OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SOME species are worth more than others. However much that thought may stir the conscience of certain conservationists, who assert that all species are biologically equal, and hence equally deserve our support efforts, it turns out to be all too true when we look at the way the world works. Of course, in principle, all species may merit protection from man-caused extinction on certain ethical grounds — but that is another story. Biologically speaking, the small we say, a demonstrable "pecking order" in nature: some species contribute more to their ecosystems than others.

Consider, for example, the durian. This Southeast Asian tree produces a fruit that is considered a delicacy, with a strong taste somewhere in between best strawberries and rotten garlic. Even though the set of consuming it may be compared, because of the smell, to eating dessert in a run-down public toilet. The durian tree is pollinated by a single species of bat. Conversely the bat appears to find its main, though not sole, source of nectar food in durian trees. The bat spends a good part of its day roosting in caves, and large numbers of this particular species occupy caves in the environs of Kuala Lumpur, known as the Batu Caves.

About 25 miles away from these caves are coastal mangrove swamps, in which grows a particular flower that is also favoured by the bats. The swamps have been undergoing reclamation for building land, which reduces a significant food source of the bats. Moreover, the Malay Peninsula, like most other parts of the Third World, has developed a hearty appetite for concrete. So the Batu Caves have been steadily encroached for their limestone. In the wake of these two assaults upon their life-support systems, the bat populations have declined.

Fortunately the blasting of the Batu Caves has recently been halted. In order to safeguard the bats' roosts among other reasons. But as long as the mangrove swamps continue to be eliminated, the bat populations steadily fade away.

During the lengthy stretches of the year when the durian tree is not in flower, the bat sustains itself by feeding on the nectar of several other plants, not only the mangrove species but certain trees of the rainforest. So were the bat to disappear, several other trees apart from the durian could be in trouble. In turn, this means that if conservationists are to safeguard the ecological network that supplies nectar to the bat, and that the bat sustains as a critical pollinator, they must safeguard extensive tracts of forest in order to protect both the bat and entire communities of associated plants.

By virtue of its unusually significant role in its ecosystem, the bat deserves the ecological label of "keystone species."

The Indian fruit bat, *Indrius* (Picture by Frank Lane)

Without the bat, we could all be on a sticky wicket. It pollinates bananas, avocados, cloves, guava, cashews, and even the disgusting durian and the kapok tree. Norman Myers considers the case of the keystone species

Key links in the life chain



often visit flowers, thus pollinating them. All in all, bats pollinate hundreds of genera of tropical trees and shrubs, thereby fostering the prosperity, and often the very survival, of many plants that we encounter on our British meal tables, including bananas, avocados, mangoes, cashews, cloves, guava, and breadfruit. In addition, many other plants rank as "bat supported," notably the kapok tree and several timber and fibre trees.

The one-on-one link between the Batu Caves and the durian tree is paralleled by mutually supportive relationships between fig trees and wasps. The fig genus, the most distinctive and widespread of plant genera in the tropics, comprises more than 900 species, each of which is pollinated by its own species of wasp. At the same time, the wasps depend on the ovaries

of the figs as sites for their larvae to develop. A further illustration lies with the Brazil nut tree, which is commonly known for its tasty fruit, and is widely harvested in Amazonia as a cash crop. This huge tree is pollinated solely by an iridescent insect, a member of the euglossine group of bees (the busy euglossines occasionally cover as much as a dozen miles in little over one hour). Likewise the tree's nut depends for its germination on a sharp-toothed rodent, the agouti, which chews and softens the seed coat.

So this towering tree requires, for its reproductive system, the services of a high-flying bee that pollinates flowers in its crown, and a forest-floor rodent that disperses its nuts. Of the two creatures, the euglossine bee appears to be the more important in that it also pollinates,

among many other plants, aroids — and in turn, these plants often supply prime sources of food to sundry other insects which pollinate further plants, and so on. In this crucial sense, we can view the euglossines as "mobile link" species — a kind of counterpart concept to that of keystone species.

Many other cash crops, after the pattern of the Brazil nut tree, are pollinated by obligate insects or bats or birds. Tiny midges and thrips pollinate rubber and cocoa; bees and others of the Hymenoptera order pollinate passionfruit and cucurbits; flies pollinate cashew, mango and kola nut; nocturnal moths and bats pollinate kapok, calabash and balsa trees; and hummingbirds pollinate wild pineapples.

All these pollinator relationships of specific sort

(literally intended) form part of larger food webs, often with their own keystone species and mobile links. For instance, in a tract of Costa Rica forest, a single bird, the masked tit, is an exceptionally proficient seed disperser of a canopy tree *Casahuate corymbosa*. But the tree supports not only the bird, but 20 other fruit feeders which depend on it almost entirely during a 2-6 week period of the year when virtually all other food sources give out.

Were the tree to decline drastically in numbers (through e.g. over-logging), this would lead to the demise of the masked tit, with adverse repercussions for the other trees whose seed it disperses; and a related fate would overtake several toucans that feed on the tree's fruits — as on the other trees

whose fruits the toucans disperse. This basic concept of pivotal linkages within tropical forest ecosystems, extended to thousands of plants that, through their nectar, pollen and fruit, supply critical support for multitudes of insects, mammals and birds. For example, figs, with their several hundred species, and epiphytes, with their thousands of species. Further, if as a result of man's disturbance of the forest, a keystone species is eliminated from its ecosystem, the loss may lead to that of several other species.

Still more to the point, these additional losses may, in certain circumstances, trigger a cascade of linked extinctions. Eventually a series of the forest's food webs could become unravelled as they are through the co-evolution of plants and animals that have sustained each other through ever-more complex relationships, they can steadily become destabilised from start to finish of their workings, with a "shatter effect" throughout their ecosystems.

Thus the exceptional intricacy of the forest's fabric of life. When human incursion causes the severing of a few threads, the damage can ultimately lead to a rending of the fabric from top to bottom.

Furthermore, many pollinators of tropical forests, in common with a good number of other species, exist at very low densities. This leaves them unusually susceptible to sudden elimination. Not only are there obvious threats such as forest burning and other disruptions at the hand of humans. By virtue of their sparse numbers, these species are subject to stochastic extinction — meaning, roughly, "random" extinction. The phenomenon occurs when populations, fluctuating as they do between high and low points, descend a demographic curve to a point from which they cannot recover.

Or a population may die out because of genetic quirks. Under natural circumstances, these localised events do not matter, since a population can be re-established by colonisers from neighbouring populations. But if, say, a park were to be established in a tropical forest without space enough to account for small-scale disturbances of "fragile" species, the park might be unable to sustain a complete forest community, even though it were to total hundreds of square miles.

In temperate zone forests, generally with only one tenth as many species per unit area, a park can generally protect a sufficient spread of ecosystems while covering a much smaller tract of forest. In the humid tropics, by contrast, we need to consider that a park should usually cover at least 1,000 square miles, often much more, to do its job.

Dr Norman Myers is a consultant in environment and development.

Short sighted

SIR Keith Joseph, as Minister of Education and Science, has complained (from time to time) that it is useless bemoaning the alleged degradation of British science without producing any real evidence that degradation is actually taking place.

"Give me some ammunition, some real evidence that harm is being done, and I will then have a case to argue," says Sir Keith. In the best empirical traditions of Conservatism.

The fact that institutions are closing, that advice is being taken on the withdrawal of Britain from international scientific commitments, that scientists are being retired early in hundreds and that the entire academic scientific community sees its structure and purpose in tatters, is not evidence enough.

Let us look at nuts and bolts of research, at something simple but explicit. Any major high technology item of equipment would do but, since we have the figures and some of the facts, consider electron microscopy.

It is one of the less well known secrets of the Falklands engagement that some of the Royal Navy's extremely high frequency oscillators were not as reliable as they needed to be, a problem put down to lattice faults in crystals. To investigate these faults, probably caused by very low level impurities during crystal growth, it was necessary to use a laboratory with new electron microscopes. That these were (of course) Japanese in the present point, the point is that the highest level investigation could not be done without first installing instruments that operated at the cutting edge of the technology. You want to know which laboratory? It is Malvern.

That too is beside the point, for we all know that under Thatcherism swords come a long way before ploughshares. The indication of what is necessary if the highest level of work is to be done. The situation in universities and the civil institutions needs to be thought in the light of it. Happen that Dr. J. R. Roberts, vice-president of the Royal Microscopical Society, an electron microscopist and biologist, has looked broadly at the situation in universities, estimated the current costs and given some thought to the disbenefits to science of failing to keep up with the times.

Firstly, it needs to be recognised that, in the current condition of failure of the dual support system for science, replacement of large items of equipment cannot take place. Many laboratories are now operating on equipment which is obsolete, which is increasingly out of service and even when operating at neither achieve its original specification nor have to match that of new equipment.

If you regard science as some kind of race, as it sometimes is in crucial fields of development, then the present situation might well be likened to that of offering British Grand Prix drivers the 1936 ERA as a machine to challenge 1985 opposition from abroad. An exaggeration, maybe, but a correct one.

The scale of equipment replacement needed is large, even in this single field, which is one of many and merely serving as an example. Simply to replace the electron microscopes at their current level of use in academic laboratories and assuming a routine lifetime of about a decade (getting long in the north by then) would cost in the region of millions a year. That is a significant proportion of a major budget—about 5 per cent of the Science and Engineering Research Council's vote, for example. The money is not available.

Thus the laboratories are condemned to use geriatric equipment. The disbenefits which result are enormous. For example, it is impossible to train students or young post-graduate scientists to the highest current technical levels. They must emerge comparatively less well trained than they were a few years ago and, more seriously, less well trained than their counterparts in other countries. The British laboratories will become increasingly less attractive to overseas students and British graduates will be less able to contribute to science at an international level, or to compete in the general international scientific scene. They become second rate.

A spin-off which reverberates further is that, with equipment that is below standard in the sense that it is unreliable or technically inferior, it becomes impossible to define appropriate research projects that relate to the cutting edges of either science or technology. Thus the bridges between university research and industry become even shakier and grant applications have to be downgraded to what is possible rather than what should be attempted.

Thus, for the want of equipment, is science degraded and lost. Not quite for the want of a nail. But damn near. That should be ammunition enough for a start. Maybe if the Department did a great deal more. But does Sir Keith really want to know? Are you there, Peter Brooke?

Anthony Tucker

What puts the Mother into Mother's Pride

Even yeasts have hormones. Paul Simons looks into an evolutionary puzzle

DAVID Feldman is chief of endocrinology at the Stanford University School of Medicine, and he has spent most of his career studying steroid hormones in humans. A few years ago, though, he decided to find how far back in evolution these hormones date. "People kept looking at simpler and simpler organisms," Feldman notes. "But they went in small jumps — to amphibia or sharks. We felt it was worthwhile to make a big leap back and look for mammalian-like steroid receptors and hormones in really simple organisms."

Working with David Loose, a graduate student, and David Schuman, an orthopaedist at Stanford who is interested in joint infections, their first success was finding something in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that attracted a steroid hormone extracted from animals. That attraction was due to a special receptor protein in the yeast that recognises the oestrogen. Moreover, the yeast had another sort of chemical that could knock off the animal oestrogen from the receptor.

The team was expanded to include biochemists, physiologists and organic chemists. The result was the discovery in the yeast of an oestrogen called 17 β -oestradiol — identical to one of the human female oestrogens.

The implications of this work are extraordinary. It shows that a sophisticated steroid hormone system in this simple yeast must have evolved very early in evolution.

Although yeasts are known to make steroids (such as cholesterol), this is the first time that a real vertebrate animal steroid has been shown in such a simple organism.

But what effect could oestrogen have in the yeast? The simple answer is we don't know. In mammals oestrogens act on the central nervous system, turning on mating behaviour in females.

Yeasts have none of these features; indeed they are only single-celled organisms, and the word hormone is used to describe a chemical that communicates between cells inside a creature. All the more astonishing then that these simple creatures and humans make chemical messengers that can bind to each other's receptors.

But we already know that other fungi have a liking for mammalian hormones. In the case of disease-causing fungi, they may even use the animal's hormones to regulate their growth and development. This may explain, for instance, why the pernicious yeast *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis* — which causes a devastating disease in South America — is much more common in men than women.

Because of their work with other yeasts, the Stanford scientists suspected that the organism might prefer men because it has sex hormone receptors that bind and recognise sex steroids.

The researchers discovered oestrogen receptors in *Paracoccidioides* that inhibit the conversion of the filamentous form of the yeast (which is inhaled), to the yeast form of the fungus that actually produces the infection.

So far as our food is concerned, the levels of oestrogen found in the yeast are quite low. But as the authors speculate, "Since *S. cerevisiae* is the yeast used extensively in the baking and fermentation industries, it is possible that this oestrogenic substance may enter the human food supply and affect public health." And then we might know what puts the Mother into Mother's Pride. Nice one *Saccharomyces*.

Science Vol. 224, pp. 1109-1111. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA, Vol. 81, pp. 4722-4728.



Mark Collins reports on entomology's big event for 1985 and explains why 150 scientists are tramping through the forests of Sulawesi in pursuit of a few million insect species

The other Wallace collection

PEOPLE often ignore insects, at least until they are bitten by one. The reasons are not hard to find. Firstly they tend to be too small for our optical apparatus to resolve clearly, and secondly there are so many of the little devils that our cerebral wiring becomes overloaded. Fortunately some people have persevered; dedicated bands of entomologists have now been peering into the ways of these six-legged creatures for several hundred years.

At the end of the 19th century the great British naturalist John Russett estimated there to be about 2,000 species of insects in Britain and perhaps ten times that number worldwide, a delightfully insular view, but quite wrong. Two centuries later, the British explorer and naturalist Henry Bates was amazed that within an hour's walk of his home in Para, Brazil, he collected more than 700 species of butterflies, about twice as many as in the whole of western Europe! We now know that Britain has over 20,000 species of insect, roughly the same as the total of all the mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles in the entire world.

With a million species described worldwide, three out of every four animals are already known to be insects. But estimates keep spiralling upwards to quite bewildering numbers. The extraordinary diversity in tropical rainforests has led to growing speculation about just how

many more insects remain to be found. The debate has an almost Victorian flavour — the wonders of nature unfolding to humbled and amazed mankind. Many say that 1 or 2 million unknown species still lurk under logs or in the treetops of steamy tropical jungles, others would put the figure nearer 10 millions; no one really knows. The latest calculations, published more as a challenge to others than as the final word, give an estimate approaching 30 million.

One hundred and fifty years after its foundation and a century after its Royal Charter, the Royal Entomological Society of London still has this fundamental problem in mind. To help tackle it, the Society is mounting a year-long expedition to the densely forested slopes of the Dumoga-Bone National Park in northern Sulawesi, Indonesia. They call it Project Wallace, named after the Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, president of the Society in 1870-71 and a great student of the insect world. It was he who discovered some of the gigantic birdwing butterflies of present-day Indonesia.

More than 150 scientists from 19 countries will be following in Wallace's footsteps, netting, trapping, baiting, fogging with insecticides, attracting to lights, counting, picking, punning, and generally observing insects. Never before has such expertise been gathered together to

study man's greatest rivals. What drives them to do it? A good number of the scientists, not least the joint organisers of the expedition from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, are interested in agricultural and medical pests. The northern limb of Sulawesi is one of Indonesia's rice-bowls, and is the location for a huge irrigation scheme funded by the World Bank. To ensure a constant water supply for the rice, the Dumoga-Bone National Park was set up in a unique agreement between the World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Indonesian Government.

In such big schemes rice pests like the Brown planthopper or one of its 3,000 Pacific relatives can cause havoc. With caterpillars in the cornucopia and beetles in the beans, local farmers have a lot on their minds. But it's not just a question of spraying a bit of Flit about the place. The entomologists are more interested in studying how the pests arrive and develop, and in looking for natural predators to breed, release on the crop, and thus keep one hop ahead.

Insects have been used in "biological control" programmes all over the world, often saving millions of pounds. These entomologists believe that somewhere there's an insect to tackle every pest — it's just a matter of finding it. Often this means going back to the place of

origin of the crop or weed, looking at the wild plants, and studying the insects that occur on it. With native Indonesian crops like papaya, mango, clove, and banana, not to mention innumerable under-utilised wild plants, all of which have associated insects, there is plenty to study.

New agricultural schemes bring medical problems too. Mosquitoes breed in standing water and carry killer diseases like dengue fever and malaria. Some diseases, such as elephantiasis, are known to be transmitted by insects, but the culprits have not yet been found. It is important to track them down and find the chinks in their armour.

Yet it is only a tiny proportion of the local insects that can cause troubles like these; the great majority are harmless or beneficial to man. Of the possibly millions of insects as yet undiscovered, a not insignificant fraction will be of some potential value: perhaps a useful bee for pollinating crops, a moth to control weeds, or a wasp to prey on a crop pest.

Reaping the benefits of the insect world depends on maintaining its diversity and not, as we seem bent on doing at the moment, reducing it. So far we don't even understand how diversity is maintained, although we know full well that it depends to some extent on an optimal microclimate, a good diversity of plants and plenty of ecological nooks and crannies to live in.

Clearing tropical forests doesn't help, but economic and population pressures make it inevitable that many of the world's rainforests will be felled. The important thing is to do it in a sensitive way and the Dumoga-Bone watershed is a very good example of how this can be achieved. The forest is not only protected and the water balance, they also serve as a reserve for threatened vertebrates like Pygmy buffaloes, the Babirusa (a forest pig), the Giant palm civet, the Celebes tortoise and the Maleo bird, which lays its eggs in sands warmed by hot springs.

Entomologists will welcome the protection of the most spectacular and aesthetically delightful forest but, for the most part, it is the forest's biodiversity that is the important thing. More importantly perhaps, it gives them a chance to return to Wallace's playground and appreciate, as he did 120 years ago, the excitement of finding new species.

But the modern perspective is slightly different. With environmental pressures building up all the time it has become essential not only to understand the ecological roles of these insects, but also to realise that small and many though they are, we need them.

Dr Mark Collins is one of the editors of the Insect Red Data Book and a member of the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Unit at Cambridge.

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FOR the most part I am happy with my low-tech, low-profile, medium writer. The other part is when I find myself in the company of my friend and one-time colleague, someone I shall merely refer to here as Douglas Adams (why should I give publicity to his inescapable series of radio programmes, books, television episodes and what have you about thumbing lifts as a means of interplanetary travel?).

Douglas is now a high name writer and has a stunning girlfriend, Jane who is a barrister. Jane has just gone off to barrister and I am in one of those low-slung sofas that slip loose change out of your pocket when you aren't looking, but I won't discover that until after lunch.

The very large, grubbily carpeted flat is improbably situated over a pet shop in Islington where you can buy a book called *Envy Your House*. Even more improbably, this is a flat written by Douglas Adams. His latest slim volume, described as *'Book Four in the Hitchhiker's Trilogy'*, does however have the word 'fish' in the title.

Douglas tells me how well his book is doing in America. I try to change the subject, but at present he is America rather full of each other, and he is limbering up for a swift tour of the Stateside chat shows. There is also a film of *Hitchhiker* in the offing.

I spent seven months in Los Angeles last year reworking the material for the film script. We ended up with so many different versions that we decided to leave it aside for a bit and the producers went off to make a different film, called *Ghostbusters*, and I came back home and wrote the new book and the computer game.

I want to pick his brains about this new computer venture, but at this point an architect friend turns up for a quick discussion about the installation of a swimming pool. A swimming pool in a flat over a pet shop in Islington? With some stout supporting pillars and the income from the books and the computer game, anything is possible.

When the architect has gone and we have mounted the stairs to his office, I realise that, like me, Douglas has computers the way some people have mice. Back in 1980 when we swapped as Doctor Who script editors, Douglas had shied away from my Vector Graphic MZ System B, saying he didn't want to get involved in the new technology.

Count them. "That Macintosh isn't mine," I was told by Personal Computers to take around the game when I was doing a signing tour for the book. This other Mac with the hard disk is mine. There's a tag on it, Tandy 1000, the DEC Rainbow, and the

ONE highlight of the recent Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas was the resurrection of Atari, the new Atari, as Jack Tramiel, its new owner, calls it. Tramiel, and two of his sons, who effectively run the business, were on the stand for the whole of the four days backslapping with acquaintances. The whole thing was reminiscent of the time when Tramiel introduced cheap calculators to similar shows over ten years ago; the excitement in what he was doing was obvious.

Highlights of the show for industry observers were the introduction of a new range of machines from both Commodore and Atari. The two companies are diverging, even though they have so much in common. (Tramiel was the founder of Commodore, but left a basketball ring a year ago).

In an exclusive interview with Tramiel, his enduring philosophy of giving the customer more value for money was graphically aired. According to him the show had been superb. From Atari's point of view, it had reinforced the fact that they are a brand new company and had simultaneously supported his view that, when he took over the company, there was no need for a change of name.

"With something like 20 million Atari games users in the world, there is tremendous potential to turn them all into computer users. Atari seems to have had a love affair with the public and we want that to continue. I've taken the company by the scruff of the neck. I'm a surgeon, I've done it before and I've made it profitable." (This is the reference to Commodore's take over of MOS Technology in the mid-seventies. They were the company that developed the 6502 processor that is in Apple, Acorn, Commodore and Atari computers. It was about to go bankrupt when Tramiel rescued it.)

Atari are doing all their chip designs in-house at the moment and putting manufacture out to contract. But Tramiel still attributes a lot of the success of Commodore to the fact that they had their in-house semi-conductor many, and it's no secret in the industry that Atari are hunting around for another chip company to buy. Tramiel is quite convinced that he has somebody looking after me



Douglas Adams is leading his readers into strange regions. Chris Bidmead interacts with the creator of Arthur Dent

Technical hitch

Apricot XI. There's also a BBC micro around somewhere — Chris Curry gave it to me to see about putting *Hitchhiker* on it, but that was before my dealings with Infocom and we never followed that up. He looks round for some spare desk space to perch his coffee, a tall distracted presence among the technological lumber. Then there's the Logica VTS my secretary, Gillian, is using next door.

"This is the man who started a crusade against digital watches!"

"About 18 months ago with all the success of *Hitchhiker*, I had a kind of feeling like a 6-year-old saying 'Mummy, I don't know what to do now, I really got bitten by computers then'."

Computers have completely changed my own approach to writing and I ask him if he has experienced the same thing. "The big problem comes from the stuff on the screen continuing to be too mutable. I know that's supposed to be one of its very strengths, but because you can continually edit and re-edit, when you try for a read-through of a section and you easily get lost in twiddling about with a word or two here or there. The obsessive editing spiral. Like the arrow never reaching St Sebastian."

At this point a dispatch rider stomps up the stairs to deliver a chart that shows the *Hitchhiker* game as number three in the Infocom popularity ratings. Unlike the arcade games with their need for trigger-finger response, Infocom's follow the tradition of an early computer game called *Adventure*.

Adventure games use short paragraphs of text instead of moving graphics to unfold a landscape of tunnels, traps, and surprises through which the player thoughtfully picks his way as best he can. Is the Infocom version of *Hitchhiker* a game, or is it too pompous to think of it as the beginning of a new art form, the interactive novel?

"You can very easily fall flat on your face making these sort of pronouncements. But



'Is Hitchhiker a game or is it the beginning of a new art form?'

for me, becoming involved in interactive fiction is rather like making films. It has been in the first decade of this century. It's a new art form, nobody takes it seriously, it's not respectable. Only the people doing it know it's terrific."

I'd been bitten by the *Adventure* bug, too, in my early days of computing. Douglas first came across the game on the Source in Los Angeles in '83. The Source is an American bulletin board system, a sort of electronic

common room that computer users can tap into by way of the telephone system.

Douglas completely believes his looming physical presence by being rather self-effacing, like his non-hero Arthur Dent. This talk of power came a little oddly from him, and I asked him to elaborate.

"Writing's always about manipulating the reader in one way or the other. Putting together a game like *Hitchhiker* opens up many more ways to do that. For example, in the game there are objects that you don't seem to be able to get hold of, and things you can't do that you feel must be done. You start playing Arthur Dent, but you might later discover that you're being hurried back into a scene you've already lived through... only this time you're Ford Prefect."

For those few who don't yet know, Ford Prefect plays Virgil to Dent's Dante. "Obviously a novel lets you see the same scene from several different points of view. But in the game you have to deal with the consequences of things you've already chosen to do as the other character."

I begin to see what he means by the author's greater control. "But in the future, the more interactive the work becomes, the more the author has to release his grip. Even apart from whole areas of the story that individual readers might not choose to explore, you might create something that had all kinds of cultural, culinary, footnotes, literary references, torrid explicit sex — much of which would stay undiscovered by

readers whose interest didn't lie in those directions." But I suspect this isn't Douglas's idea of the Great Interactive Novel.

No, if the reader is able to say at the end of Act I of *Hamlet*, "Bored with that Prince of Denmark bloke, let's see what happens if he dies," you feel well, if everything is to be simply responsive to what the reader wants to see, rather than what the writer wants to see, then I have to invent the interactive novel — you've already got American TV."

We talk a bit about writing *Hitchhiker* as a television script. What I like about writing novels is the total control you have over where the attention is directed from one moment to the next. How can the interactive novel be more controlled than that?

Douglas is in the middle of demonstrating a three-dimensional version of the game, constructed on the Rainbow, and has to think for a moment. "There might be a passage where you say to yourself, 'I wonder what happens if I go because if not he won't get the joke that's coming up, and the rest of the chapter won't make sense. The computer makes sure the reader doesn't proceed until the point has been understood.'"

It occurs to me the program might even be designed to profile the reader from the responses to the early chapters and adjust the rest of the story accordingly.

"On a fairly banal level we can do that already. Say there's a section where the player gets pissed off with trying to find ingenious ways through a locked door, and ends up kicking it down. Too much of that, and later in the game objects begin to hit him back. *Hitchhiker* has a number of seeding ideas like that. Another is that the scoring of the thing — maybe we'll work it out better for a later game — is not actually an index of how well you've solved the problems, but of how happy you are. If you do too well too early, then maybe you start getting points rather less quickly because of the problems of early success."

Minus points for being a smart aleck, perhaps. He shows me some of the source code for the game, written in a language called Muddle, and the conversation becomes a discussion about computer languages. We discover we have both started to spend far too much time nurturing the inner workings of our computers with BASIC, Pascal, and C. To be fair, Douglas has to release his grip. Even apart from whole areas of the story that individual readers might not choose to explore, you might create something that had all kinds of cultural, culinary, footnotes, literary references, torrid explicit sex — much of which would stay undiscovered by

And very time-consuming to test. There may be another Doctor Who script from me, a book from him. The debate intensifies, and we adjourn across the road for a long, late lunch.

Software sans frontiers

There are rich programming pickings out there if you can translate from the American, says Jack Schofield

IN THE beginning, all software was written in a common language: American. This got us off to a flying start in microcomputing. Unlike many of the French, Germans, and Japanese, we had no problems understanding the new terminology of bits and bytes. In fact, most of us not only accepted Americanisms, we adopted the spellings — disk, program, and sometimes even color.

Indeed, until very recently it was possible to spend several thousand pounds on top-quality equipment — an IBM Personal Computer, Graphics Printer, Wordstar and still find you were not able to print a sign!

But now the micro has spread beyond the American continent, the natives are getting restless. They expect software to be written in their own language — special characters, currency symbols and all.

This has had a traumatic effect on software writers, who suddenly have to cope with a vast range of problems beyond their previous ken. It is not just a case of providing a pound sign instead of a dollar, because many currency symbols follow, instead of precede, the figure. France, Greece, and Italy are examples, with say — 100F, 100Dr, and 100L.

Some financial packages just fall apart when presented with currencies like the yen, cruzeiro and lira. The last-named sells at 2,180 to the pound, so even a small business requires a lot of extra columns in order to balance its accounts.

Nicely laid out screen displays also suffer when translated from English or American to more verbose tongues. Take a tightly-packed menu of crisp words like Find, Sort, Edit, File, Copy, Move, Cut, Load, List, Run, Save, Kill and even Menu — you're bound to need more space to cover the same functions in French or German. Solution: keep the original "packing density" low.

Another way to solve the space problem is to use the first letter of each word to select the function — say, L for load. Alas words don't always start the same way in each language. This is why in Handic's spreadsheet, translated from Swedish into English, you have to hit A when you want to Sort!

The cosmopolitan software writer cannot even assume

the date and decimal point will be entered consistently, while that old staple "Overwrite old file (Y/N)" just has to go.

As no one can agree on the correct way to enter the date, it seems the International Standards Organisation has decided to do it back to front: today is 1985-02-21. The points and commas in numbers mean different things in different places: our 1,234.56 is 1.234,56 in Italian and 1234,56 in French. That simple Y/N choice is made awkward by the fact that the Germans want to press J for Ja and the French O for Oui.

But all these problems are as nothing when it comes to dealing with the points of coding, which often utilise the ASCII code — the American Standard Code for Information Interchange.

ASCII is a 7-bit code which specifies the 128 numbers which stand for the letters of the alphabet, numerals, punctuation marks, etc. For example, the ASCII code for A is 01000001, for B is 01000010, for C is 01000011, for D is 01000100, for E is 01000101, for F is 01000110, for G is 01000111, for H is 01001000, for I is 01001001, for J is 01001010, for K is 01001011, for L is 01001100, for M is 01001101, for N is 01001110, for O is 01001111, for P is 01010000, for Q is 01010001, for R is 01010010, for S is 01010011, for T is 01010100, for U is 01010101, for V is 01010110, for W is 01010111, for X is 01011000, for Y is 01011001, for Z is 01011010, for [is 01011011, for \ is 01011100, for] is 01011101, for ^ is 01011110, for _ is 01011111, for ` is 01100000, for a is 01100001, for b is 01100010, for c is 01100011, for d is 01100100, for e is 01100101, for f is 01100110, for g is 01100111, for h is 01101000, for i is 01101001, for j is 01101010, for k is 01101011, for l is 01101100, for m is 01101101, for n is 01101110, for o is 01101111, for p is 01110000, for q is 01110001, for r is 01110010, for s is 01110011, for t is 01110100, for u is 01110101, for v is 01110110, for w is 01110111, for x is 01111000, for y is 01111001, for z is 01111010, for { is 01111011, for | is 01111100, for } is 01111101, for ~ is 01111110, for space is 00100000, for ! is 00100001, for " is 00100010, for # is 00100011, for \$ is 00100100, for % is 00100101, for & is 00100110, for ' is 00100111, for (is 00101000, for) is 00101001, for * is 00101010, for + is 00101011, for , is 00101100, for - is 00101101, for . is 00101110, for / is 00101111, for : is 00110000, for ; is 00110001, for < is 00110010, for = is 00110011, for > is 00110100, for ? is 00110101, for @ is 00110110, for [is 00110111, for \ is 00111000, for] is 00111001, for ^ is 00111010, for _ is 00111011, for ` is 00111100, for a is 00111101, for b is 00111110, for c is 00111111, for d is 00110000, for e is 00110001, for f is 00110010, for g is 00110011, for h is 00110100, for i is 00110101, for j is 00110110, for k is 00110111, for l is 00111000, for m is 00111001, for n is 00111010, for o is 00111011, for p is 00111100, for q is 00111101, for r is 00111110, for s is 00111111, for t is 00110000, for u is 00110001, for v is 00110010, for w is 00110011, for x is 00110100, for y is 00110101, for z is 00110110, for { is 00110111, for | is 00111000, for } is 00111001, for ~ is 00111010, for space is 00111011, for ! is 00111100, for " is 00111101, for # is 00111110, for \$ is 00111111, for % is 00110000, for & is 00110001, for ' is 00110010, for (is 00110011, for) is 00110100, for * is 00110101, for + is 00110110, for , is 00110111, for - is 00111000, for . is 00111001, for / is 00111010, for : is 00111011, for ; is 00111100, for < is 00111101, for = is 00111110, for > is 00111111, for ? 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TRAINERS

DIARY

MR AND Mrs Cecil Woolf
woke up yesterday morning
to find that a burglar had
visited their North London
house during the night. Mr
and Mrs Woolf, who are
well known public figures,
they were burgled by a
group of men who had
agreed over the telephone to
publish a book about the
murder of Miss Hilda
Murrell.

Well, well. The Murrell
case is crisscrossed with such
coincidences, which is why
people want to write books
about it. Another person
writing a book on the subject
is the journalist Judith
Cook. Two weeks ago, mail
coming from London started
arriving at her house having
been rather clumsily opened
and re-sealed with sellotape
— about a dozen letters in
all.

But back to yesterday's
break-in. On Tuesday night,
Mr Woolf — who has pub-
lished two books by Tim
Dalyell — discussed the
Murrell book project with
West Country journalist, Graham
Smith. Mr Smith rang
Mr Cook to check about her
book and then rang Mr
Woolf back. That was about
8.30 pm. Mr and Mrs Woolf,
who are working from home
currently (their office was
burgled some months ago),
went to bed at 11.15 pm.

Yesterday morning they
found their bathroom win-
dow had been forced. The
broken security lock had
vanished.

Nothing had been taken.
Mrs Woolf cannot be sure if
their papers have been dis-
turbed. There were no foot-
prints in the snow outside
the window. The couple, who
have never been burgled in
the five years they have
lived in Camden, their called
the police. Mr Dalyell says
he finds the burglary
"extraordinary".

NOT only does Mr Maxwell
have two lifts at the Mirror,
he also has one locked and
reserved at the vicarage.
Maxwell lives in a house
which houses, amongst other
things, Financial Weekly.
That leaves one (erratic)
lift between the 430 other
employees.

THE Belgrave authors,
Messrs Gavron and Rice,
were back at Scotland Yard
yesterday being quizzed by
the boys in blue about their
interview with Lord Lewin
to see whether the old salt
can be prosecuted under the
Official Secrets Act for spill-
ing too many beans in a
recent interview published in
the Guardian.

The Serious Crimes Squad
were eager for the pair of
them to hand over their
notes, tapes and transcripts
of the interview, but they
declined. They also indicated
that they would be unwilling
to appear as witnesses in any
possible case against Lord Lewin.
This will doubtless come as
a great relief to the DPP's
office, who may be able to
get out of prosecuting the
Admiral on grounds of lack
of evidence.

MONDAY night's post-
Belgrave Newsnight
discussion featured a Tory,
Mr Michael Miles, and a
Liberal, Mr Paddy Ashdown.
Mr Denis Davies, Labour,
rang up at the last minute
to explain that he could not
make it. Which was
embarrassing for Mr Eric
Heffer, who rang the
programme during trans-
mission to complain about
the lack of balance.

HAMPSHIRE Police have
begun an investigation into
the claims of an Oxfordshire
businessman who says that
he had been bankrupted to
the tune of nearly £40,000 as
a result of a systematic cam-
paign of harassment from
Thames Valley Police
together with local
freemasons.

Mr John Watman lost his
licence for a pub in
Warrington — and with it
£28,000 — after a series of
anonymous complaints which
led to 35 raids within a few
weeks. At his bankruptcy
hearing yesterday he claimed
that local masons had col-
luded to force him out of
business. The Hampshire
police investigation has been
ordered by the Home Office
as a result of the evidence
produced by Mr Watman.

IT WAS, in fact, tea (not
coffee) and Mrs. W. G. W.
Norman White and Co at
Number 10. But the moment
her back was turned Peter
Walker was offering them
Chablis and spirits in his
own private room at the
Department.

AIDS runs more rampant
still. A hapless secretary
working at Wormwood
Scrubs has been refused
treatment by her dentist be-
cause he fears catching the
disease off her. The PTA is
meanwhile worried about
the risk from a not infrequent
occurrence at the Scrubs, an
example of which happened
Tuesday — a prisoner
slashing his wrists. A suicide
was prevented by officers
rushing in to save him, but
there was an awful lot of
blood about.

Alan Rusbridger

MICHAEL WHITE reports on Mrs Thatcher's address
to Congress and, below, PAUL JOHNSON reviews the
Republican movement's financial affairs

The green sting in Maggie's tale

THE rhetorical climax of
Mrs Thatcher's address to
Congress yesterday was
Abraham Lincoln's passage
about "malice towards none
— but its effective cli-
max was a sustained assault
upon the IRA and upon the
American connection, which
— even as she spoke — was
staging three small dem-
onstrations against her in
the streets outside.

Having spent nearly 30
minutes capturing her al-
ready-eager audience with a
mixture of conviction politics
and — less familiar — with
some outrageous flattery
(something she must keep
for the export market), the
Prime Minister was well-
placed to deliver some
Thatcherite home truths and
get away with it.

The moderate Irish lobby
in Congress, the Friends of
Ireland, led by the Speaker
of the House, Mr Tip
O'Neill, had reportedly asked
her to address the subject —
a plea scrawled in O'Neill's
own hand on the invitation,
it is said. With some con-
gressmen taking a much
more radical line — not to
mention their supporters out-
side — they needed some-
thing and they got it. Con-
gressional moderates and
Irish diplomats seemed
satisfied.

Mrs Thatcher's appeal was
a familiar one in Dublin and
London, though 15 years
after the troubles re-started
it still cuts less ice among
Irish-Americans whose his-
torical images are formed by
the Great Famine and the
Black and Tan atrocities.
Carefully linking the loss of
British ("some close and
dear friends") American and
— above all — Irish lives to
terrorism, 70 per cent of the
victims, she pointed out, Mrs
Thatcher neutralised potential
dissent by tying them to US service-

men killed by bombs in
Lebanon.

To the subsequent satisfac-
tion of some diplomatic ob-
servers here, she praised the
efforts and the co-operation
of Dr Garret Fitzgerald to
condemn and combat ter-
rorism. Emphasising the wish
and consent of the majority
in the North, she recognised
that there was a Nationalist
as well as Unionist tradition.
"We seek a political way
forward acceptable to them
both and which respects
them both."

She even invoked last
year's report of the new Ire-
land forum which had some
American listeners and
nearly recalling her Govern-
ment's over-hasty condemna-
tion of its tentative options.
The practical point lay in
the fact that the money is used
to buy the deaths of Irishmen,
north and south, she told
an audience which included
vice-President Bush, con-
gressmen including Sen-
ators Kennedy and Murphy
— and most of the cabinet.

Mrs Thatcher was entitled
to thank them all for help so
far. President Reagan made
clear his opposition to US
visas for those who support
violence when he visited the
land of his fathers last year.
Gerry Adams MP was appar-
ently refused one to coincide
with the Thatcher trip. The
courts in New York have
been harassing Noraid, the
chief US fund-raiser for Sinn
Fein.

But the daily demos out-
side the British Consulate in
New York continue and
though Noraid and other
groups did not muster the
promised 3,000 supporters
outside the Capitol, green
the Prime Minister yester-

day, cars and buses brought
several hundred who
marched, chanted, played
Republican songs and waved
the tricolor just about within
sight of Mrs Thatcher's cav-
alcade — had she been try-
ing hard to see them.

And, standing holding a
banner on behalf of the
Bobby Sands unit of Noraid
in Charlestown, Massachu-
setts, John Hurley, 62, was
unapologetic. "The money
goes to families and prison-
ers' families and to trying
to correct injustices. The US
government has had our
books for two and a half
years. They returned them to
us without finding one
penny that went to buy
guns." Around him support-
ers of all ages agreed.

The split in Republican
lobbies in the US is cur-
rently between Noraid and
the Irish National Caucus,
the group led by Washington
lobbyist, Father Sean
MacManus.

Inside Congress the split is
between the Friends of Ire-
land — the ones with the
Irish names as the joke
goes — which is moderate and
inclined to accept that there
are no easy solutions, and
the Congressional Committee
on Irish Affairs, led by the
New York congressman, Rep.
Mario Biaggi, which supports
the political programme of
Sinn Fein on Irish unity.
Diplomats estimate the
Friends' strength at 60 or so
congressmen and the com-
mittee as a nominal 100 but
in reality much smaller.

Mr Biaggi, who met dem-
onstrators before the
Thatcher speech, was not
happy with its tone. The
moderates were there in
millions of votes in Amer-
ica to be had — or lost — on
this issue. Meanwhile Mr
O'Neill was Mrs Thatcher's
host for part of the day. But
he is retiring next year and
rumour has it wants to be
ambassador to Ireland.

Shadowy balance sheet of republicanism

WHEN Gerry Adams, presi-
dent of Sinn Fein, the politi-
cal wing of the IRA, said
recently that one of the
movement's ways of raising
money was through "cake
fairs" there was no reason
to disbelieve him.

While the picture of
Republican paria militias
beat over the IRA, sur-
rounding out Victoria sponges for
the cause may be improb-
able, Mr Adams's comments
emphasise how varied and
secret is the fund-raising ap-
paratus of Sinn Fein and the
IRA.

Most estimates put the cost
of maintaining the political
and military wings of the
organisation at about £3 mil-
lion a year. Yesterday a good
part of that — £1½ millions —
was seized by the Dublin
government from an account
in the Bank of Ireland.

The impression that the
largest single contributor to
Republican coffers is Noraid,
the American-based fund-raising
group which maintains a
northern profile largely
through the activities of the
New York lawyer Martin
Galvin, suits both the Repub-

lican movement and the British
Government. For the
Government it seems to keep
the issue alive in the US and
on a world platform. For
the Government it is useful be-
cause sympathisers of the
Sinn Fein-IRA cause can be
portrayed as misguided
Americans attempting their
pockets in ill-considered his-
torical duty.

Noraid claims to raise
\$300,000 annually. It is be-
lieved that the figure is de-
flated deliberately, the true
amount being closer to half
a million dollars.

Other over means of rais-
ing funds are through col-
lections, donations, raffles
and the alleged profits from
Republican News, the weekly
paper which claims a circula-
tion of 48,000.

Those sources are still
small in comparison with
other means of raising a
sum. It is thought that
the largest single contribu-
tion comes from pro-Republi-
can drinking clubs in the
northern provinces which
matched turnover of £10 mil-
lion a year. These enormous
drinking dens adhere to the

time-honoured practice of the
"prisoners' penny" — a
penny on every pint. Sizable
amounts of money are to be
made from the gaming ma-
chines. It is partly because
of this that the British Gov-
ernment is reconsidering the
gaming and licensing laws as
they apply to Northern Ireland.

Other sources of income in-
clude social security fraud,
tax dodges, and the way the
IRA takes a share of com-
pensation awards.

Bank robberies in the
Republic have declined sig-
nificantly, particularly now
that the IRA has moved
around in armoured
wagons with army protection.
This has caused a drift
towards softer targets, such
as post offices.

Kidnappings are risky and,
in any case, are likely to
draw criticism from the
Republic. Most of the specu-
lative attempts have failed.
In 1973 the West German
consul in the North, Mr
Thomas Neidermayer, was
snatched, and his body was
found in 1980. It appeared
that he had suffered a heart
attack. An IRA man was



On guard outside the house where the Dutch businessman
Tiede Herremis was held in 1976

JOHN CUNNINGHAM witnesses
the revival of a conspiracy theory

The flip-side of Gay Lib

THE flip-side of British tol-
erance of minorities is an
ambivalence towards non-con-
formity — racial, religious or
sexual. The deepest conflicts
are sexual, and these are
surfacing in our attitudes to
homosexuals. For the spread
of AIDS is terrifying in its
plague-like potential. It
discloses, as cases mount, an
equally terrifying reaction as
widespread pools of carers, col-
leagues and those at some
distance from the victims
perceive themselves at risk.

This partly is ignorance,
spreading downwards from
doctors and the DHSS about
what advice to give the pub-
lic. No vaccine yet; and not
yet a noticeable disease: the
products of panic are open, and
you may wonder how long it
will be before the current
fear of physical contamina-
tion merges with a sense of
moral retribution. If that
happens, society will find it
is something sinister about
the grip of homophobia, justifying
its latent hatred of those it sees
as "queer" or "beet" be-
cause of their potentially le-
thal diseases.

AIDS has added quiet des-
peration to lives still
marginalised by non-accept-
ance in a straight world.
Aids spreads like a self-
revealing conspiracy. There
is something sinister about
the process. For it is part
of the way in which the intel-
lectual world traditionally
has perceived, and particu-
larly in homosexuality.

It is old-fashioned, but it
is a point of view which is
currently getting an airing
from a distinguished
academic, Lord Annan. The
theme of his Northcliffe Lec-
tures in Literature, which he
is currently giving at Univer-
sity College London, is The
Deviants of the Inter War
Years. Homosexuals were the
first group dissected by the
former vice-chancellor of
London University.

Annan, a robust old
showman, is guilty of giving
renewed currency to the
view that gays are cut-throat
conspirators. In 30 minutes
of breathless compression, he
sought to explain homosexu-
ality in England by identifi-
fying as its exclusive con-
dite public schools and
Oxbridge colleges. He attrib-
uted to gays staggering influ-
ence: concretely, in the
arts, diplomacy and
espionage.

And more diffusely — and
surely much more danger-
ously to the English psy-
che — across class boundaries,
as Oxbridge men liberated
the universities, while engin-
eering the bodies of working
class young men. There was
a concomitant element of
voyeurism in the audience —
they had come to hear
names named, and Annan
dropped them carefully.
It traced a sort of Masonic
network, extending from Vic-
torian clergymen in Norfolk,
as obscure as their parishes,
to songwriters whose tunes
you may hear yesterday.

Annan's lecture had all the
ment of a gossip column
recited rather than read.
There were moments of com-
edy. When mentioning early
strictures against masturba-
tion and what he called "in-
voluntary nocturnal emis-
sions" — blindness was one
dreaded side-effect — Lord
Annan, with unintended good
timing, removed his spec-
tacles to emphasise the
point.

The generalisations which

Annan made apply to an
elite of influential homosex-
uals who, certainly from Vic-
torian times, liked the secret
world of their creation, in
which they felt they were
engaging, illicitly, in acts
which society then con-
demned. They could form
bonds of brotherhood which
they believed the straight
world was the poorer for not
experiencing.

Oxbridge might not have
seen as other than platonic,
relationships which were sex-
ually active; members of the
elite, in education, the arts
and the public service, might
have had a taste for secrecy,
as Annan pointed out. But
he didn't emphasise that pre-
judices Britain forced
them into closets. Cambridge
was very different from the
wider world. And while E.M.
Forster, as an honorary fel-
low of King's might be fond
of male undergraduates with
impunity, the verdict of a
harsher world stopped him
publishing his gay novel
Maurice. It appeared only
after his death.

The devotions of secrecy
was indulged by treatment
of some homosexuals into
the secret service. Burgess
and Blunt were traitors.
Easy to brand gays as trait-
ors. But Annan fairly
pointed out that the Cam-
bridge mathematician Alan
Turing, who was gay, dis-
played complete integrity in
his intelligence work. Specifi-
cally it was Turing who
broke German naval ciphers
at a time when the Allies
were facing defeat in the
Battle of the Atlantic.

It is unsettling to hear
even an intellectual middle-
weight like Annan skating
so much history. For there
are serious questions
about homosexuals to be
asked right now. Is there
a gay ethos? What is its
input to an overwhelming
heterosexual society? To
what extent do gays want
a separate existence? Do they
have goals different from
straights? Lord Annan, from
his literary alant, did at-
tempt some sort of assess-
ment of gay legacy in
selected fields.

The score sheet seemed to
give high marks for individ-
ual effort — Auden, Britten,
Bacon — but not much by
way of a collective identity,
save for some popular mu-
sicians, a few minor novels
about public school revolts,
and the proclamation of a
species of style: camp.

It seems no longer suffi-
cient to regard gays as
conspiratorial purveyors of
an equally conspiratorial,
fatal disease in the mid-
eighties. That is an outworn
metaphor. There needs to be
a new one, and gays should
contribute to its promotion,
though they are in a bleak
position to do so.

For slowly, we are pitching
against a community
which has lost the dynamism
of Gay Lib, fully a decade
ago, which has perished
such collective leadership as
gay newspapers could give,
before squabbles over own-
ership intervened. There is not
much Gay pride about; not
much reason to "come out."
The GLC-funded gay
Centre in London. Aids must
cast a shadow over it.

JOHN McGRATH reports on the humiliation of the church in Poland

The Pope's divisions at bay

THE murderers of Father
Popieluszko are not the only
people to have been on pub-
lic trial in Poland in recent
weeks. Cardinal Glemp, who
begins a 10-day visit to Brit-
ain today, had his differences
with the troublesome
priest too, and his policy to-
wards General Jaruzelski's
government has come under
close scrutiny, posing a more
important question. Modera-
tion or collaboration?

The jury consists not only
of Catholic men good and
true, but also of the millions
of Poles many unbaptised,
who first went to church
when Solidarity made
churchgoing a political act
— and who, through the
dark days of martial law, in
many cases kept on going.
Solidarity is undergoing a
crisis of credibility which was
only postponed by Walesa's
Peace Prize. The church has
a choice: it can throw in its
lot with the underground
and enter a state of siege
akin to that of the occupa-

tion or it can attempt to
emerge as the single credible
and (to the government) ac-
ceptable centre of Polish
loyalties.

Glemp has chosen the lat-
ter path and many people
are not happy. A consid-
erable number of Poles prefer
the black and white of occu-
pation mentality to the dull
greys of normalisation.
Glemp's abandonment of
the straight and narrow path
of confrontation had a num-
ber of sound justifications. It
has allowed the church to
act as a practical reformer
in its assistance, its plans to
revitalise parishes. It has
also freed the Pope from the
charge of contradiction when
he urges South American
churches to maintain their
independence from under-
ground revolutionary move-
ments. But it is, nonetheless,
all too apparent that the
church's priests have aug-
mented their already often
good wealth and local influ-
ence at a time when political
dissidents have enjoyed only
hardship and isolation.

Solidarity brought the Pol-
ish church a huge increase
in power. The church has de-
cided to try to hold on to
that power, rather than fol-
low Solidarity into the wil-
derness. As the consequences
of that choice become appar-
ent, the church's position
can only be judged by the
extent to which that power
is used for the attainment of
the political changes which
Solidarity sought.

The chances of the policy
being vindicated do not look
good. The national mood was
already turning against
Glemp last year. At Easter I
was walking in the Tatra
mountains with a Polish
friend — a young man whose
support for Solidarity was
only surpassed by his loyalty
to the church. We took
a popular route through the
snow-covered highlands and

as we walked I was sur-
prised by the omnipresence
of political slogans written
in the snow.

At one point there were a
number of unfattering por-
traits of big-eared men
"Probably it is Urban," my
friend explained. Jerzy Ur-
ban is the government
spokesman and probably the
only person in Poland less
popular than Jaruzelski.
"But I hope," he added,
"that it isn't Glemp."

That such a worry could
cross his mind revealed how
even my loyal Catholic
friend recognised the un-
popularity of the church's
seemingly opportunistic
position.

The trial of Father
Popieluszko has emphasised
that these differences persist
even within the clergy and
has more or less confirmed
the bankruptcy of Cardinal
Glemp's policy.

The agriculture plan has
been dismissed from the gov-
ernment's agenda. The
church has been subjected to
vitriolic condemnation
throughout the proceedings.
General Jaruzelski, always a
master tactician, has turned
a seeming public relations
disaster into a realisation of
the state's omnipotence.
It would be hard to
overestimate the signifi-
cance of this trial in the
sequence of events precipi-
tated by the election of the
Polish Pope. It became (and
perhaps was always intended
to be) a symbolic process
whereby the state has estab-
lished that it is through its
officers, its courts, its rules
that the events of the nation
are to be processed. The
church's alternative mech-
anism of government, which
during martial law distrib-
uted and controlled nearly
all foreign aid and housed
dissenting thought, art,
and organisation, has been
humiliated.

Now the government is
smugly rearranging the Soli-
darity leaders released in
last year's amnesty, and
Lech Walesa could be
brought before a Polish
court. No one has protested
much. Recalcitrant Poland
seems set finally to tread
the same austere path as Czech-
oslovakia. After all, the image
of Poland as a free land in
added religious freedom
never really was very
convincing.

Nonetheless, General
Jaruzelski's dreams must still
be haunted by the spectre of
Karol Wojtyla. It was the
Pope who created the cli-
mate in which both
Jaruzelski and Walesa could
come to prominence.

No-one doubts that Car-
dinal Glemp's policy was
pursued with blessing from
above, but the experiment
was always orchestrated in
such a way as to keep the
Pope free of any blame, and
free to swing his weight
back behind Walesa should
the moment seem right. If
there is one sure fact in Pol-
and it is that neither the
Holy Father, nor the Nobel
Peace Laureate will ever be
caricatured in the snow.

Yet Papi words about Pol-
and have international ram-
ifications of worrying sorts.
Many other troublesome
priests, from the liberation
theologians to Western
Europe's Bruce Kent, would
quickly draw lessons from
a politically active Pope.

General Jaruzelski must be
hoping that the Pope chooses
to avoid using overt political
influence; certainly he can't
be sure that his taming of
the church is complete.
Meanwhile, throughout the
world, Stalin's seemingly
rhetorical question may yet
prove to be one of the most
important of this decade.
How many divisions does the
Pope have?

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Angry Labour delay Ridley



Mr Mikardo—complained

TRANSPORT

By Alan Travis, THE Labour Opposition mounted a filibuster in the Commons yesterday which delayed by three hours, the rushed parliamentary timetable for the Government's bill to claw back £50 million in grants from the Greater London Council to give to London Regional Transport.

The move was designed to maximise the Government's embarrassment after it had to announce late on Tuesday night that the planned debate for yesterday on rate-capping orders was being postponed after last-minute changes to them and the remaining stages of the London Regional Transport (Amendment) Bill would be taken instead.

The bill, which had its second reading on Tuesday, is being rushed through the Commons to rescue Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, after a High Court judge ruled that it was unlawful and improper for him to order the GLC to hand over the £50 million to LRT.

The bill makes it legal for the Government to direct the GLC to pay over the money, but Labour spokesmen have condemned it as a "shabby little battle in the Government's war of attrition with the GLC."

Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said that while it was unusual to take the remaining stages of a bill the day after its second reading it was not unprecedented.

Mr Ian Mikardo (Labour Bow and Poplar) complained that bills had only been rushed through the House with such haste in the past when they had all-party backing and for some telling reason of state, such as the prevention of terrorism.

Mr Ridley said that the bill was urgent, as LRT would run out of cash later this month if the bill was not enacted soon. He said the Opposition had put down six amendments since 10 o'clock on Tuesday night so he could not see any value in their arguments.

The Labour move not to proceed with the bill was defeated by 180 votes to 256 (Government majority 76).

Ex-MP is police watchdog

By Colin Brown THE former Labour Health Minister, Mr Roland Moyle, who lost his seat to a Tory at the last general election, was appointed yesterday by the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, to serve on the new Police Complaints Authority as one of its two deputy chairmen.

Mr Moyle, a Labour MP from 1956 to the 1983 general election, aged 56, is a barrister and will have special responsibility for supervising the investigation of serious complaints against the police.

The Home Secretary also appointed Rear-Admiral John Bell, the current deputy chairman of the board, to take up the full-time appointment with the new authority with special responsibility for investigations on discipline within the police force.

The authority was established under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (1984) at a cost of about £1.6 million and will be based in London. It will have powers to supervise the independent investigation of complaints against police officers.

However, it is required by the legislation to carry out an investigation into any case involving death or serious injury. Its chairman is Sir Cecil Clothier, the former Ombudsman.

Labour call for prostitutes to be allowed to advertise openly

CRIMINAL LAW

By Colin Brown THE Shadow Home Office Minister, Mr Clive Soley, said yesterday that he had told the Criminal Law Revision Committee that they should recommend allowing prostitutes to advertise openly within the law.

Mr Soley, the Labour MP for Hammersmith, said the committee would be reporting and he hoped that the Home Office would look sympathetically at their recommendations if they proposed measures to decriminalise prostitution.

Mr Soley said he believed that the preferred response to the problem of prostitution would be to reform the law which made soliciting by a prostitute a criminal offence.

However, government ministers made it clear yesterday that even if the criminal law revision committee made such a recommendation, it was highly unlikely that there would be support within Parliament to implement it.

Mr Soley was speaking at the first sitting of the Commons committee stage of the Sexual Offences Bill, which makes kerb-crawling a criminal offence.

Mr Soley and the five other Labour MPs on the committee pressed an amendment, with the support of one Tory MP, Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire W), to make it an offence for a man to solicit a



Mr Soley: "Reform law"

woman for prostitution if he did so "in a manner which causes nuisance or fear." A second amendment was pressed in a one hour 45 minutes speech by Mr Parris to make it an offence to take place in "a manner likely to cause nuisance or offence."

Mr Parris, who tabled a series of other amendments, was criticised by the Home Office Minister, Mr David Mellor for appearing to spin the committee out. Mr Mellor said it was a prima facie case of filibustering. But Mr Parris denied the charge.

He said: "This is an area of the criminal law into which we pressed an amendment, with the support of one Tory MP, Mr Matthew Parris (Derbyshire W), to make it an offence for a man to solicit a

many ways, an area of personal morality as well as public nuisance. I am not saying we should not venture at all — I am saying we should venture more cautiously."

Mr Mellor said: "It is nonsense to suggest that we are rushing into this territory. Do you not realise this was first considered by Wolfenden 30 years ago and the Criminal Law Revision Committee seven years ago. Unless a small is to be turned into an abject, the progress on this bill cannot be said to be Olympian."

Mr Parris made detailed complaints about the drafting of the bill and suggested that by concentrating on soliciting from a motor vehicle other forms of transport, for example, a bicycle or a C5 tricycle, could be excluded.

Mr Parris and Mr Soley both warned that innocent people could face arrest for stopping to ask a woman a question from the car and would be brought into the bill's net because it was drawn too widely.

Mr Soley emphasised that those seeking to amend the bill also wanted to respond to the demands of residents who wanted to prevent the nuisances of kerb-crawling.

But Mr Mellor said that if the amendments were inserted in the bill the measure would become in effect a "dead letter" as far as action against kerb-crawling was concerned.

The committee adjourned until next Wednesday, when a vote on the amendment is expected.



THE former general secretary of the TUC, Mr Len Murray (pictured above), took his seat in the House of Lords yesterday. Lord Murray of Epping Forest, aged 62, who retired last year after 11 years as general secretary, plans to sit on the Labour benches and take an active part in proceedings. "I have a lot of commitments so I don't yet know when I will be making my maiden speech, the only trouble is that it's supposed to be non-controversial and that is going to be difficult," Lord Murray said.

Tebbit opposed to frigate order

By Colin Brown

The Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, strongly opposed Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, over the placing of a £130 million order for a Royal Navy frigate with the Cammell Laird shipyard on Merseyside to save jobs.

Mr Tebbit was against the order going to Birkenhead because the ship could have been built more cheaply elsewhere. This was confirmed this week by MoD officials, who told the all-party Commons Defence Select Committee that the frigate would cost £7 million more because it was being built at the Birkenhead yard.

The decision is being regarded as politically significant by Mr Heseltine's supporters, who see it as a personal victory for Mr Heseltine and a demonstration that direct government intervention can help to save jobs.

His action is in line with the views of the left-wing of the Conservative Party, who regard Mr Heseltine and the Energy Secretary, Mr Peter Walker, as the champions of their cause within the Cabinet.

It is understood that the row between Mr Heseltine and Mr Tebbit over the order lasted for several months. One source said Mr Tebbit sent Mr Heseltine a memorandum telling him that on no account was the uneconomic order to be awarded to Cammell Laird.

"It was the strongest-voiced memo I've ever seen sent by one Cabinet minister to another," said a source close to Mr Tebbit. "The source said, 'Despite being detained for some weeks in hospital, after the Brighton bombing, Mr Tebbit remained opposed to the scheme and he believed that the battle was only won by Mr Heseltine within the Cabinet after he had obtained the personal backing of the Prime Minister.'"

Thumbs down to lie detector—but ban sidestepped

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The Commons employment committee yesterday delivered a scathing attack on the polygraph — otherwise known as the lie detector — describing it as undesirable and unreliable. Polygraphs indicate physical reactions to questions but tell nothing about the cause, said the committee.

But the committee's refusal to recommend an immediate ban on the machine, despite the fact that its members — a majority of whom are Tories — have nothing good to say for it, provoked an almost equally hostile response yesterday.

Mr John Gorst, a leading Tory member of the committee, said that his fellow MPs had dodged the most important issue involved in the polygraph — the rights of the individual — in a written statement: "The evidence was all there to justify calling for an outright and immediate ban on the use of the polygraph in the private sector."

GC&HQ Trade Unions, which represent those staff at the Government Communication Headquarters in Cheltenham who have refused to give up their union membership, also criticised the committee for stopping short of recommending a ban on the polygraph and the pilot scheme the Government said it intended to set up after a report by the Security Commission in 1983.

The committee's report, which is the direct result of the Government's plans for GC&HQ, says that an independent assessment of the pilot scheme should be made before any decision was taken to use the polygraph on a permanent basis in the Intelligence and Security Services.

Although it says that use of the lie detector had implications that would be damaging to individual rights and harmful to good industrial relations, it recommends simply that if the use of the machine increased, the Government should set up a code of practice and a licensing system.

Mr Ron Leighton, the Labour chairman of the committee, who described the report as "the most common denominator" of the membership, said that the polygraph — though widely used in the United States — had not been taken off in Britain. "We think British society has more common sense than to use this machine," he said.

Asked what he thought the attitude of GC&HQ officials should be, he replied: "It is a

matter for them and their conscience." The report notes that recent research sponsored by the US Government showed that it was possible to train people to beat polygraph tests and that those most likely to receive this training would be those acting as agents for foreign governments.

The committee said it cannot comment on the judgment of the Security Commission in the recommendation for a pilot scheme at GC&HQ since the commission refused to disclose the results of its contacts with the United States. The director of GC&HQ, Mr Peter Marychurch, also refused to give evidence in the committee, saying that there were trained polygraph testers there.



Mr Leighton: "Highest common denominator"

The committee reserves its strongest criticism for pre-employment lie detector tests. It also sharply criticised a member of the Polygraph Security Services Limited, a British subsidiary of an American firm, for refusing to give evidence.

The committee's report says it deplores the unco-operative attitude of the company. Mr Jeremy Barrett, the company's London director, replied yesterday that the committee's attitude was "pandering to the unions because of the GC&HQ situation."

Pre-employment polygraph screening, he said, had been successful in the United States and had helped solve crimes. He declined to say how many clients the company has in Britain.

The implications for industrial relations and employment of the introduction of the Polygraph House of Commons Employment Committee Stationery Office, £1.75p.

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For more details please contact Andrea Turner, Personnel Officer, on Slough (0753) 77707 or write to her at GTE Directories Ltd, Directorate House, Slough Place, Slough, Berks SL1 1NQ.

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THE GUARDIAN

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Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of ion implantation equipment and for the carrying out of experiments in the area of ion implantation into and on polymer substrates.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of ion implantation equipment and for the carrying out of experiments in the area of ion implantation into and on polymer substrates.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to Professor P. M. Robinson, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S1 3JD.

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

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Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Geography. The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of ion implantation equipment and for the carrying out of experiments in the area of ion implantation into and on polymer substrates.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of ion implantation equipment and for the carrying out of experiments in the area of ion implantation into and on polymer substrates.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to Professor P. M. Robinson, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S1 3JD.

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School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

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The successful candidate will be responsible for the design, construction and operation of ion implantation equipment and for the carrying out of experiments in the area of ion implantation into and on polymer substrates.

Applications, together with curriculum vitae and three references, should be sent to Professor P. M. Robinson, Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S1 3JD.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APPOINTMENTS
APPEAR EVERY THURSDAY IN
THE GUARDIAN

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APPOINTMENTS

Science and Technology □ Computing □ General

THE GUARDIAN Thursday February 21 1985 19

The Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) recruits personnel for positions in the following African countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and Madagascar.



MOZAMBIQUE

Within the framework of the Norwegian development assistance to Mozambique, NORAD has been requested to provide technical assistance to the shipping administration. This assistance is administered by the Ministry of Railways, Ports and Merchant Navy.

The following vacancy is now to be filled:

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NORAD is going to start a project aiming at establishing and developing a Hydrographic Division in Mozambique, over a 5-year period, thus enabling the country to make surveys of the port facilities and distribute the results to the authorities concerned.

Duties:

The Hydrographer will join the Hydrographic Division and work directly under the supervision of the Director. His/her duties will include the following:

- Supervision and monitoring of the project;
- Selection and purchase of equipment;
- Offer advice on the personnel requirements at the Hydrographic Division;
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Qualifications:

Degree in hydrography. Extensive professional experience. A thorough knowledge of the various tasks dealt with in a hydrographic division. Administrative experience is required.

Duty station: Maputo.

Language:

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Duration: Two years.

Date required: According to agreement.

Basic salary: £ 18918 or £ 20528. The salary is subject to taxation in Norway. In addition an installation grant, overseas and family allowances will be paid.

Closing date: March 15.

Application forms and further information regarding salary, allowances housing, school facilities etc. may be obtained from the Personnel Division.

Ms. Kjersti Berre, tel. 47-231 45 24 or 31 45 50.

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A Technical Translator is required to join a team engaged in translating and editing translations into English, mainly of technical papers and in addition correspondence and committee minutes etc.

Applicants should have a degree or equivalent with French or German as principal subject. They should preferably have experience as a technical translator in industry, but those who have completed a post-graduate course in technical translating will also be considered. Knowledge of other languages could be useful but the main requirement is good performance in translating difficult technical material from French or German into English.

There may be an occasional opportunity for interpreting or telephone work but this will not be a regular feature of the job.

Applications in writing giving full relevant details including age and current salary to the Group Personnel Officer, CEGB, Sudbury House, 15 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU not later than 28 February 1985. Quote Reference 44/85/JBB/VTG. The CEGB is an equal opportunity employer.

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You will be young, dynamic, with considerable experience in COBOL and with Series 1 in particular. You will have knowledge of hospitals and the health care market and experience in commercial applications using the IBM PC.

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To meet the growing demand for its numerical and statistical software services, NAG intends to make the following appointments in its Central Office in Oxford.

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Will assume responsibility for the management of Central Office computing resources which now include a VAX 11/750, over 40 terminals and personal computers, several work stations, and network access to remote systems. The post requires a versatile, capable person with a sound academic background and experience of computer systems management (preferably VAX/VMS). Salary scales RADC/IL.

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with a strong interest in software is required to develop the statistical chapters of the NAG Library and, in the longer term, to provide computational modules for inclusion in advanced statistical systems. Applicants should have a PhD or MSc in statistics and extensive experience in statistical computing. Salary scales IA/IL.

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will implement NAG software products on a wide variety of computers. The successful candidate is likely to be a competent Fortran programmer with a background in scientific computation, and experience of handling large volumes of software on different systems. From time to time the tasks undertaken may involve working away from Oxford for short periods. Salary scales IB/IA.

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will support NAG's Genstat statistical package service by handling user enquiries and orders, pursuing bug reports, and implementing the package on various systems. The post requires a sound knowledge of Fortran and an appreciation of the various tasks involved in providing an effective package service. Prior Genstat experience will be a distinct advantage but candidates with a general statistical package background may apply. Salary scales IB/IA.

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will help to develop the NAG Library with a particular emphasis on algorithms for vector processors (Cray-1, Cyber 205 etc). The post will suit a numerical analyst preferably with a PhD or MSc in a relevant subject, a strong interest in numerical software and a thorough knowledge of Fortran. Salary scale IA.

The following Research staff Academic-related salary scales apply to the above posts: IB (£8,600-£10,300), IA (£7,520-£12,150), IL (£11,205-£14,925), IIX (£11,675-£15,930), III (£14,135-£17,795).

For further details please contact:

The Administrator
The Numerical Algorithms Group Ltd
NAG Central Office
268 Banbury Road
OXFORD OX2 7DE
Tel (0865) 511245

Closing date for applications: 8th March, 1985.



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Edmonton Incinerator

To join a small on-site group providing scientific services relating to water treatment, demineralisation and pressure steam generating plant. Work covers the chemical analysis of water, refuse sample gas and flue gas emissions; interpretation of results; advising on remedial actions; and supervising fault-finding operations. Ref: 5311.

Salaries: £9,255 - £11,325 inclusive.

The GLC is an equal opportunities employer. We invite applications from women and men from all sections of the community, irrespective of their ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation or disability, who have the necessary attributes to do the job.

For an application form, to be returned by 8th March 1985, write to: GLC Director-General's Department, Room 203, The County Hall, SE1 7TB or telephone 01-633 2390. Please quote appropriate reference.

These posts are suitable for job sharing.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING SCIENCE

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POST

Physicists and Electrical Engineers with a PhD or equivalent research experience are invited to apply for two posts:

- (i) As RA to the Professor of electrical Engineering assessing the feasibility of new components, based on acoustic and optic waves, with sensing and signal processing applications. This Departmental post is for a period of three years. Salary will be in the range of £7,520 to £10,383.
- (ii) To work on optical components and displays formed by optical volume holography. The post is supported by SERC for four years. Salary will be in the range £7,520 to £8,320.

For both posts applications, together with a curriculum vitae and names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to Professor E. G. S. Paige, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ, from whom further particulars are available. The closing date of the application is March 8th, 1985.

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ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC
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AND DEVELOPMENT
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APPLICATIONS PROJECT LEADER

The International Energy Agency (IEA) has an opening in the Data Processing Division for a senior systems project leader. The Division provides processing services to the Agency on an IBM 4381 computer system running under the VM operating system with extensive use of an in-house developed cross sectional database management system programmed in APL.

The successful candidate will have:

- expert level APL programming skills;
- proven project management experience;
- a degree in computer science or other related discipline; and
- at least three years data processing experience in an interactive computer environment.

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Applicants must be nationals of an OECD country, possess fluency in one of the official languages (English and French) and a working knowledge of the other. Suitably qualified candidates are invited to send their CV to: Head of Personnel, OECD, 2, rue André Pascal 75775 Paris cedex 16, marked DPD/IEA (GUA).



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Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Officer, Town Hall, Bolton BL1 1RU (Tel: 22311, Extns. 557 and 6105), to whom same should be returned by 7th March. Trade Union Membership is a condition of service. An Equal Opportunity Employer

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Applicants are invited from Electronics Engineers to contribute original ideas to the solution of measurement problems. The successful candidate will face the challenge of translating theoretical designs into products able to withstand the severe environment of the operating divisions of British Gas.

Experience in analogue and digital circuit design is required, together with a sound knowledge of Physics. Additional experience in the application of microprocessors would be an advantage.

There will be considerable scope for independent action in this appointment, and candidates will be expected to possess the initiative to take advantage of the opportunities.

The minimum educational requirement is an Honours Degree in Physics or Electronic Engineering, and membership of an appropriate professional institution is desirable.

Salary will be in the range £10,119 to £11,645. Benefits are those normally associated with a large progressive organisation.

Please telephone or write for an application form, quoting reference ERS/430/G, to: Senior Personnel Officer, British Gas, Engineering Research Station, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1UH. Tel: Tyneside (091) 2684828 ext. 160.

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Application forms (returnable by 6th March, 1985) with further details from Mr J.B. Launchbury, 29 Shirley Road, Southampton SO1 3EW.



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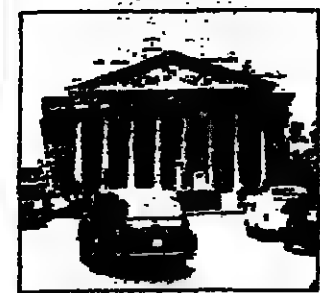
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NOTEBOOK
Peter Rodgers

PAUL VOLCKER, the US Federal Reserve chairman, has come up with no surprises in his testimony to the Senate banking committee, and in many ways that is the best thing to expect from a leader of the most

powerful monetary authority in the world. The markets immediately pushed the dollar up and US bonds down in the expectation of firm interest rates. But apart from some minor adjustments to the money supply growth targets — tightening the narrow measure and loosening slightly the two broad measures — there was very little new in what he said, to justify the sharp reaction.

If on balance there is a slight tightening of monetary policy, it confirms the market suspicion that the easing last autumn, to reduce interest rates, is now over. But was it right to call it an easing in the first place?

Historically high interest rates and a steadily appreciating dollar are not the sign of any form of monetary laxity, nor are there any indications from the US economy that inflationary pressure is seriously rising. It may be of course, that Mr Volcker is

exercising the central banker's prerogative of talking tough in order to make it easier to act soft, in which case there are few people on this side of the Atlantic who would be prepared to argue with him. He is, in fact, keeping his options open.

Even if there were a large shift of policy, Volcker hardly push up interest rates very much given his obvious concern with the height of the dollar, because this would make the problem worse still. Perhaps the market's reaction had more to do with his harsh remarks, yet again, about the size of the US budget deficit, which are a reminder of how difficult it actually will be to get interest rates down in the near future.

Discount doubt

"WE HAVE never in our history talked to this press."

said Mr D. G. Campion, chairman of the City's smallest discount house, Seccombe Marshall & Campion. This statement is interesting not because the firm is being snooty but because it accurately reflects its enormously privileged position as the Bank of England's broker in the bill markets, at the heart of the system which the Government uses to regulate interest rates.

The City would hardly expect such chaps to talk to newspapers when they have access to sensitive information about the Bank of England's daily dealings.

But yesterday Seccombe announced that it was in discussions which could lead to an offer for all its shares which after a 55p rise to 375p last night valued the company at £8 million. Small beer, but intriguing for two reasons. The discount houses are part of the monetary control system, acting as an interface between the Bank

of England and the banking system, and so they have an importance that belies their size.

The bid for Seccombe also highlights what has been clear for some time now, that there is unlikely to be room for the smaller discount houses which are almost certain to be absorbed or disappear over the next few years.

In fact, the whole discount market's days are numbered, as the bigger houses clearly realise. It only exists because the Bank of England likes the convenience of having a buffer between itself and the discounting banks, so it does not have to have an argument with them over interest rates every day.

The larger discount houses such as Union and Gerrard & National, are already planning to leap the barriers and become primary dealers in gilt edged stock. In spite of the Bank of England's recent

reaffirmation of its support for a separate discount market, even Bank officials appear to accept that eventually it will merge with the gilts market. The distinction between dealing in gilts and bills is very artificial, and once the market becomes one it is difficult to see room for the smaller undercapitalised discount houses.

It had been assumed that Seccombe's relationship with the Bank guaranteed it an independent niche, but even this may not be enough. If ownership does change, the Bank will probably re-examine its attitude to continuing to do all its business through Seccombe, in the light of who becomes its new owner.

No change

JUST WHEN Mr Alastair Morton, chairman of

Guinness Peat, believed that the company's founder, Lord Kinnaird, had bowed out, he got a sharp reminder of the former chairman's persistence. Shareholders met yesterday to vote on Mr Morton's proposal to change the name from Guinness Peat to Guinness Mahon, but the board was flabbergasted to find the innocuous motion overturned by a block of votes belonging to Lord Kinnaird and his allies.

A name change is hardly a contentious issue, and like a boring by-election only 46.8 per cent of the shares were voted at all. But Lord Kinnaird's 10 per cent and 9.45 per cent held by a firm called ICG Chemico Handeglas, MBH voted against. (These shares were represented at the meeting by the same firm of solicitors.) A 75 per cent majority is needed to change the name and as Mr Morton mustered only 57.5 per cent of

the votes actually cast, the motion failed. Why Lord Kinnaird should do it is unclear. Perhaps he wants to maintain the Peat name, because Guinness Peat grew by acquisition from his original firm of Lewis & Peat. Mr Morton wanted to get away from the memory of the bitter rows at Guinness Peat which involved Lord Kinnaird, by changing the name to that of its merchant banking subsidiary.

Mr Morton is expected to try again to change the name some time, but another much more important issue looms next month: an extraordinary general meeting to approve the planned purchase of a big stake in Britannia Arrow, the unit trust group. Luckily for Mr Morton, he has only got to get just over 50 per cent of the votes to win that one — and there will surely be a three time whip on friendly fund managers to vote for him.

BBC happy with £18 million rescue deal

Olivetti takes near half stake in Acorn

By Peter Large and Maggie Brown

Olivetti of Italy is taking a 49.3 per cent stake in Acorn, the microcomputer company which has supplied the bulk of the computers in Britain's schools.

The rescue deal also draws on Acorn's bankers, Barclays, and unpaid creditors to produce a £18 million injection of £18 million. Olivetti has the option to raise its holding later to a controlling 80.1 per cent.

Acorn made a loss of £10.9 million in the last six months of 1984, mainly because sales of its new home computer did not reach the expected share of the price-cutting pre-Christmas rush.

In the reorganisation of Acorn into four divisions, announced yesterday, Dr Alex Reid, the temporary chief executive brought in three weeks ago, becomes chairman, and there will be about 90 more redundancies among the 420 staff (30 were sacked two weeks ago).

Dr Reid, who joined Acorn in 1978, lost control of the company but is staying as full-time deputy chairman. Their holdings cut from 85.7 per cent to 36.7 per cent. Dr Reid will become a part-time chairman once a new chief executive is appointed. He runs a venture capital outfit which he began after leaving a top post in British Telecom in 1983.

Dr Reid said yesterday that he had talked to several British firms, but some of



Alex Reid

those possible deals would have meant absorption. A key adviser to the Olivetti answer was that Acorn kept its independence. He mentioned the better export prospects raised by Olivetti's office equipment marketing outlets and the quarter stake in giant AT & T.

The BBC, whose new three-year contract with Acorn for computer development for the education and home markets is not affected, expressed delight at "this great solution". Although there are around 150,000 BBC-Acorn computers in the schools — bought with central government subsidy — the Government did not intervene in the going-on of the last four weeks. A loan-fund operation, as was devised when the mainstream UK com-

puter company IC, got caught in a pump, was not even contemplated.

Olivetti is subscribing £10.4 million of the new cash, with shareholders being asked to provide £1.7 million. Two Olivetti directors will join the Acorn board. Barclays is doubling its loan facilities to £12 million, and Acorn's unpaid creditors are being asked to accept staged repayments, plus "substantial interest" over the coming 12 months.

The biggest, A.B. Electronics, which assembles Acorn machines, has already agreed.

The refinancing route chosen by Acorn's new advisers, Close Brothers, who replaced Lazard's, is a rights issue, providing 27 new shares per 20 existing ones. The price is 8p a share, compared with Acorn's price of 58p before being suspended from dealings, and its high point a year ago of 193p. Dr Hauser, and Mr Curry are waiving their rights to subscribe in favour of Olivetti.

Acorn's half-year loss of £10.9 million was on a turnover of £54.4 million, up from £40.4 million. Some £7 million of the loss is the cost of reducing the value of unsold computers, cancelling orders, and making refunds to the trade because of faults. Another £2 million is due to trading losses in the United States principally, and West Germany. The third outgoing is bank interest payments of £1.1 million.

Leader comment, page 12; Olivetti's strategy, page 22.

CBI urges EMS entry

By David Simpson
THE LOUDEST call to date for the UK to join the European Monetary System came yesterday from British industry which is to press for immediate membership of the Exchange Control mechanism.

An overwhelming majority of the council of the Confederation of British Industry voted for British participation in the EMS in an effective U-turn from its previous stance.

One reason behind the change in attitude appears to be the CBI's growing belief that some external control must now be expected to put a block on the wild fluctuations in the value of sterling.

At the same time, the CBI has now dismissed the argument that membership of the EMS could lead to high interest rates as UK real interest rates are already at a post-war peak.

The Government will take heed of British industry's appeal remains doubtful. Both the Prime Minister and the Treasury are opposed to the UK's joining the EMS, and only last week, Treasury Minister, Iain Stewart, expressed lukewarm enthusiasm for the system in a reply to a parliamentary question.

CBI president, Sir James Cresswell, expressed confidence, however, of a favourable government response to the Confederation's change of heart. The last time the CBI debated the EMS, in October 1983, it was opposed to membership.

"We will press the Chancellor very hard on the budget speeches," Sir James said.

It was politically important, as well as economically important, for the UK to join the EMS, Sir James said.

"The economic situation has changed," he added. "This is an ideal opportunity to demonstrate our commitment and to provide the leadership we believe we can give towards achieving a united Europe."

Exchange rate stability, the CBI President emphasised, was more important than the actual value of the pound and could be achieved through membership of a wider exchange control system.

Trafalgar plans spending spree

By Andrew Cornelius

Trafalgar House, the shipping and construction group headed by Sir Nigel Brookes, yesterday announced a £170 million spending spree which will help fund a planned investment and takeover spree.

News of the one-for-five rights issue at 315p per share was accompanied by an unexpected £37.2 million takeover bid for Haden, the life and conditioning equipment group, where Trafalgar has built a 4.99 per cent share stake.

Trafalgar also confirmed that it is competing with GEC for the £20 million takeover of the Yarrow naval shipbuilding yard on Clydebank, which is being privatised by the Government, and early success in its oil and gas exploration programme in the southern part of the North Sea.

Trafalgar will use the cash

injection to help fund a planned £250 million investment programme this year, including a £100 million investment in UK and US oil and gas exploration and development.

But with £250 million of unneeded borrowing facilities and a gearing which will now fall to the "low teens" Trafalgar is still actively seeking acquisitions which fit its existing portfolio. Eric Parker, chief executive, hinted that the US property market was one possible target. Trafalgar is also interested in bidding for the Vickers naval shipyards when they are put out to tender next month.

Haden, immediately dubbed Trafalgar's takeover bid as "opportunistic, totally uninvited, and unwelcome," Philip Ling, Haden's managing director, described Trafalgar's bid as "a dart" because it failed to take account of the fact that

much of Haden's business stemmed from the fact that it was dependent on any construction group.

"I think they have got some sort of dream about putting together some sort of soup to pudding construction group and that it is not the way the industry works."

Trafalgar insisted that its existing businesses are "a neat fit" with Haden's.

Haden's businesses are complementary to Trafalgar's existing mechanical and electrical engineering businesses operated through Young, Austen & Young, Rashleigh Phillips Electrical and RDL, Trafalgar said.

On the stock market news of the rights issue and bid forced down Trafalgar's shares by 12p to 356p. Haden shares rose by 54p to 288p in anticipation of a takeover battle.

Trafalgar's projected £2 billion turnover this year will leap

by a further £300 million if the bids for Yarrow and Haden succeed. The shape of the group could be further influenced by the involvement in the EuroRoute consortium which is planning to build a cross-channel link, the award of a \$500 million contract to build a second Bosporus bridge in Turkey, and the outcome of discussions with P&O on the rationalisation of the two group's shipping interests.

Sir Nigel said that Trafalgar's half-year figures to March 31 (due to be published in May) "will be good." He forecast an increased interim dividend of 5.4p per share, against 4.7p paid at the comparable stage last year. He said that prospects for the full year are "encouraging" and that the oil and gas operations will become increasingly important long term as the group's exploration programme bears fruit.

Red faces over error in job figures

By Christopher Huhne, Economics Editor

A "technical error" has caused the government to over-estimate the number of people with jobs in Britain by between 36,000 and 185,000 over the last three years, the Department of Employment admitted yesterday.

The discovery of the error will be highly embarrassing to ministers who have repeatedly pointed to the employment figures amid much opposition to a more optimistic indicator of economic conditions than the notoriously rising unemployment.

The corrected employment figures released yesterday show that the number of jobs has been consistently over-recorded since September, 1981. The gap with what are

figures was at its widest in now estimated as the "true" March, 1982, before closing gently to leave the corrected figures 36,000 below the old ones in September last year. The new September total shows 23.49 millions in work.

Because the gap has been closed, the growth of jobs since March, 1982, was understated by the old figures, a point which Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, attempted to highlight in a statement yesterday. In the year to September, 1984, the employed labour force is now estimated to have risen by 342,000 compared with the earlier estimate of 228,000.

The new figures lend substance to claims of a "pin money recovery," since 207,000 of the 342,000 apparent increase in jobs over the year to last September was for part-time women. Full-time women accounted for 54,000 extra jobs, and men for 81,000.

The statistics also underline the extent to which the new jobs are being taken by people who were previously excluded from the government's measure of unemployment.

Many married women are not usually entitled to welfare payments.

The 342,000 increase in jobs went side by side with an increase of 113,000 in unemployment, suggesting an expansion of the labour force of 455,000. Yet the population of working age is estimated to have risen by only 300,000 in 1984. The implication is that about a quarter of a million people

have either begun to look for work, or were already looking for it but were not counted as unemployed.

The error in the old figures arose because people who did not respond to the Labour Office survey of 80,000 households were assumed by the take to be working. In addition, the figures have been revised to take account of recent changes in the Census Office's population projections, used to gross up the survey sample to a figure for the whole economy. (The likely error in this process is 80,000 either way.)

"There was a processing error," a contrite Census Office spokeswoman said yesterday. "We are deeply embarrassed and are doing everything we can to ensure it does not happen again."

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Volcker's target for monetary growth

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The Federal Reserve chairman, Mr Paul Volcker, told Congress yesterday that he would not be surprised if the dollar rose in an initial response to a cut in the US budget deficit as it would increase confidence abroad in American financial stability.

But over the longer haul a cut in the deficit would reduce the value of the dollar as it would lead to lower US interest rates and make the US capital markets less dependent on foreign financing. He noted that the recent rise in the dollar, in the face of falling interest rates, was in conflict with the usual laws of economics.

He gave no indication that he expected interest rates to rise as a result of monetary policy. The new targets for monetary growth announced yesterday were, if anything, a little tighter than before, but Mr Volcker appeared unperturbed by recent monetary figures showing the rise in the money supply to be above the ceilings set by the policy-making Open Markets Committee.

The dollar hardened against yesterday against all major currencies as foreign exchange dealers took Mr Volcker's statement as confirmation that there will not be any quick move to curb the dollar's strength.

Most market dealers had already anticipated Mr Volcker's negative stance and there was little effect on the dollar which remained thin and nervous on fears of European central bank intervention.

Sterling firmed slightly during the day but lost half a point at \$1.0875 by the close. It gained a phenom against the DM but finished unchanged at 3.6226 and the effective index dipped 0.2 to 71.4.

The new targets, unveiled yesterday show the narrow version of the money supply growing in the range of 4 per cent to 7 per cent, the same rate as mid-year. This most closely watched version of the money supply includes bank current accounts (including those paying interest) together with notes and coins in circulation.

Mr Volcker announced that the ranges had been raised for the wider version of the money supply which include savings and high interest money market accounts on which it is possible to write cheques. The ranges for M-2 will be 6 to 9 per cent for 1985, 8 to 9.5 per cent for M-3, and 12 per cent for the widest measure of credit creation known as domestic non-financial debt. But despite this numerical increase there would be a more cautious approach to money figures in the months ahead.

Mr Volcker said that the higher target ranges for the wider version of the money supply would be more in line with the level of income growth in 1985. Indeed, much of Mr Volcker's analysis of the monetary targets yesterday was a view that credit should not be a constricting factor on economic growth.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Saving silicon

THE FIRST purpose-built facility in Europe for the recycling of silicon, the source of the microchip, is to be built in the UK by Micro-Image Technology, a subsidiary of Laporte, at Riddings, Derby.

Significant cost savings are available to chip manufacturers by stripping and repolishing the silicon wafers rejected at the various stages of manufacture of microchips. The £1 million plant will employ 13 people initially.

COMMITTAL proceedings against the chairman of Leyland Vehicles, Mr Ronald Hancock, were adjourned by Guildhall Magistrates yesterday until March 6. Mr Hancock faces one summons alleging that he disclosed unpublished information relating to takeover shares in January 1981. He was remanded on unconditional bail.

WATERFORD, the Irish glass group, yesterday announced record pre-tax profits of IRE£14.6 million for 1984 — a rise of 43.7 per cent on the previous year. The profits rise stems from an overhaul of Waterford's crystal and china distribution, particularly to the important overseas markets.

Southern North Sea gas cluster emerges

By John Hooper, Energy Correspondent

Evidence is beginning to emerge that there is a hitherto unknown cluster of gas fields in the southern North Sea. The fields are situated about 100 miles off the Yorkshire coast.

The latest announcement of a find in the area was made by Texas Gas Exploration, said that it has discovered a promising amount of gas at 10,000 feet in a block which it operates and in which it has a 34 per cent holding.

There is known to be another reservoir of gas nearby, lying at between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. It was discovered by BP when it held the block, but the company decided the find was not commercially exploitable and relinquished its licence. The find announced yesterday holds out the possibility

that, jointly developed, the two reservoirs could form the basis of a profitable operation. But even more interestingly, Conoco announced earlier this month that it had struck gas in the adjoining block. The data provided by the firm at the time did not look particularly promising, but industry sources say that the find was far better than it appeared.

The reason for the secrecy surrounding the area is that it lies between two sets of blocks offered by the government in the Ninth Round of North Sea licensing.

Texas Gas's partners in the block where the latest find was made are Trafalgar House (18 per cent), Rascal (18 per cent), Pogo British Isles (17 per cent), Caledonian Offshore (11 per cent), Southwest Consolidated Resources (7 per cent) and Cockerell Oil (5 per cent).

BET in new bid for Initial after all-clear

By Mary Brasser

BET is making a second attempt to clinch control of laundry group Initial Services after gaining the all-clear for its offer from the Monopolies Commission.

The group yesterday launched a new bid for the 57.8 per cent of Initial it does not already own with cash and share terms that are barely better than the original bid last summer.

The takeover was blocked by the Monopolies Commission, which yesterday published its conclusion that the merger would not operate against the public interest despite BET's existing ownership of another laundry group, Advance.

The MMC report added that the acquisition would "crystallise an already high degree of concentration and augment the market share

of the leading supplier whose strong position in the market would in our view be enhanced by its ability to distribute three products (workwear, cabinet towels and dust mops) together."

BET said that the decision cleared the way for the last major step in BET's reorganisation. "We anticipate considerable benefits from owning 100 per cent of both Initial and Advance."

The Initial board, which recommended BET's earlier bid equivalent to 544p per Initial share, was still discussing the new terms yesterday.

BET defended the new price tag on Initial by saying that a premium was already built into the Initial share price, which rose 1p to 532p in the stock market yesterday. "There is no need to up our bid, it is a fair offer and pitched just right,"

De Lorean creditors win ruling

A judge in Detroit yesterday ordered that creditors of John De Lorean's defunct sports car company, who are pressing damages of \$245 million from the company, be given access to 60 cartons of documents seized from one of his houses.

The biggest creditor is the British Government which is pushing for at least £77 million compensation after investing in a De Lorean plant in Northern Ireland.

In addition, the UK Government last Friday issued writs in a New York court claiming damages of £245 million from the company during the period it received development grants worth £77 million.

De Lorean was acquitted last August on charges of conspiring to distribute cocaine to raise money that would help save his failing car company. He was arrested in 1982. The documents were seized the following year.

Judge Ray Reynolds Graves ruled that "sanctions" be imposed against De Lorean for his attempt to keep the documents from creditors, which a lawyer for the trustee overseeing the De Lorean Motor Company's liquidation said could amount to as much as \$20,000. Graves described the documents as "a smokescreen" attempts by De Lorean to keep the confiscated documents from the bankruptcy trustee and creditors. — Reuters.

Opec encouragement

By our Energy Correspondent

The oil business was unusual yesterday treated to a spectacle of a senior executive from one of the major multinational oil companies expressing more optimism about Opec's chances of propelling up the price than the cartel's own president.

In a speech delivered in London, Mr John Ralsman, the chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, said that "if Opec seems to have been successful in reducing its production to below the prevailing level of world demand, and if they can sustain this self-discipline for some months there is a fair prospect of prices hold-

ing at or about their present level."

Earlier in the week, in previously unpublished evidence to the Indonesian Parliament's economic affairs commission, Dr Sulaiman, the minister of mines and energy and Opec's current president, warned that a further fall in the price was "not impossible."

Mr Ralsman said that even if oil prices fell by two or three dollars a barrel in the short term we must remember that the day will almost inevitably come when they will begin to rise again as non-Opec production starts to decline.

BT buys American phone exchanges

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom is buying American to the tune of about £20 million for nine new phone exchanges.

The contract is going jointly to AT & T and the Dutch group Philips, which yesterday announced that its partnership in Europe is to be expanded with the aim of becoming the "second supplier" of telecommunications equipment across Western Europe.

AT & T expounded the

theory that as the rest of Europe follows Britain's example in removing the state monopoly on telecommunications, AT & T's exchange technology, in partnership with Philips, can take a second slice to the native supplier in each country.

BT's purchase is of exchange equipment from AT & T adapted for British use by Philips. They will run a "Linkline" service which will allow firms which get much of their business from incoming phone calls to pay for those calls automatically.

BT said yesterday that the deal in no way affected its decision to evaluate computerised phone exchanges from a number of overseas suppliers and it repeated that the British version of System X will remain the main new exchange model for the UK network.

But it added that the software for the local exchange version of System X was still to be finally tested "nearly a year later." Once these tests are completed by last week and the first exchange should be in action in a fortnight. The total delay was in fact about six months.

Exchanges could have been in use months ago, he said, but they had decided on "provisional testing" for any software "bugs" — including pulling out circuit boards and immense overloading of the exchanges.

Mr Eric Clark, head of the telecommunications side of Plessey, the lead System X contractor, said later that the tests by Plessey were totally completed by last week and the first exchange should be in action in a fortnight. The total delay was in fact about six months.

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Jump in Fleet shares

By our Financial Staff

Shares in Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express jumped 18p yesterday, to close at 259p, reflecting the market's conviction that a bid for the company is about to emerge.

The expectation is that United Newspapers, which has built up a 20 per cent share stake in now on the verge of action, because of Fleet's intentions to mount a friendly takeover bid in Fleet shares for small shareholder services. Aiken Hume, reducing United's strategic stake.

But there was also a rumour abroad in the City that United had agreed to sell its stake to another potential bidder, with whom it could perhaps strike an agreement to purchase the Morgan Grampian magazine wing of Fleet. However one possible candidate to purchase the stake, the John Fairfax Australian group counted itself out last night.

Meanwhile Lazard's merchant bank, acting for Aiken Hume, said last night that there had been no material change since Monday evening's statement that Fleet and Aiken Hume were looking at possible "mutual association."

Cons Gold shows the acceptable face of big business

Andrew Cornelius
on a mining
group's new plan
to safeguard the
environment

CONSOLIDATED Goldfields, the UK mining and aggregates group, spends a great deal of its time bagging holes in the ground, both at home and abroad. Its Amey Roadstone subsidiary is one of the biggest extractors and processors of crushed rock in this country, and recently increased its considerable reserves with the \$61 million takeover of Bath and Portland, the West Country aggregates group.

Elsewhere, ConsGold is better known for its mining investments, which include a 48 per cent stake in Gold Fields of South Africa, which has some of the best quality gold deposits in the world, a half share in Renison Goldfields in Australia, and 26 per cent of Newmont Mining in the United States.

This puts the group at the sharp end of the environmental debate in four continents, not to mention the controversy which surrounds any investment by big business in South Africa. It also makes it easy for cynics to question ConsGold's motives in announcing yesterday a big new initiative which will increase the group's charitable spending overnight from £100,000 to £500,000 a year.

Mr Rudolph Agnew, chairman of ConsGold for the past two years and an employee of the group for 25 years before that, accepts that his motives will be suspected.

But he insists that ConsGold's commitment to spend 1 per cent of its annual dividend (£500,000 this year) on the newly formed Environment Trust, and an ultimate intention of

increasing spending to 1 per cent of net profit (£14 million on the latest year's figures) reflects genuine concern for the environment and people.

He believes that protest groups, including anti-sparked groups could get a lot more out of companies by preying on their guilt. But the arguments from the protesters must be constructive, he says.

"If all an action group wants to do is stop things happening then it is not going to get help from anyone. But there are a lot of people who could help if there is not a troublesome element in the action group."

"This is particularly relevant to South Africa because we are on the side of the doggoers. We are not on the side of those who want a bloody revolution and there are a lot of white radicals in that camp."

ConsGold sees the trust as the forerunner of similar initiatives in South Africa and Australia. But in South Africa the initiatives would concentrate on education and training, rather than the environment.

"It's not just an ego trip for the chairman of Consolidated Goldfields. I believe any company is a better company if it is staffed by caring managers and employees."

And he makes a rather surprising admission for the chairman of a group which has traditionally supported the Conservative Party with an annual contribution to funds (though perhaps not for much longer): "I don't buy the tycoon image that certain novels would have us believe, where you can only make money if you are a hard Victorian taskmaster."

In any case Mr Agnew says that he has had a passionate interest in the environment since he was a child brought up in Ireland. He is a trustee of the World Wildlife Fund, a member of the council of the Game Conservancy, a council member of

the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society, and also supports the National Association of Boys Clubs in his spare time.

ConsGold plans to fund several environmental projects in the current financial year, including the establishment of a permanent geological exhibition at the Wellington Country Park, near Reading, sponsoring six young people from rural areas to participate in Operation Raleigh, and the restoration of Gull Island, a breeding ground for wild life in the Beaulieu estuary near Southampton.

Mr Agnew yesterday appealed to environmental groups to put forward new ideas for improving the environment which could benefit from the trust.

At the same time ConsGold is at an advanced stage in discussions with the Manpower Services Commission over the creation of a residential and non-residential training centre at the ARC Wildfowl Centre, Great Linford, which is the site of a former ARC gravel works near Milton Keynes. The aim will be to select groups of 25 to 30 young people at a time from rural areas and offer a course of up to two weeks which will offer a mixture of training in rural skills, water sports, and

appreciation of the environment.

If this proves to be a success the trust will work towards providing funds for the creation of small workshops and businesses which use traditional rural skills.

Mr Agnew also hopes to bring together groups of unemployed workers in rural areas who can offer to work for the agricultural industries on a sub-contract basis to help bring life back to rural areas and communities which have been economically devastated by recession.

"In a tiny way I set out to redress the balance between the immense sums spent on culture and on fashionable activities and on neglect of the basic environment in which we operate."

Managers within the group are already aware of their chairman's keen interest in the environment. "If I go to one of our operations and there is no environmental plan then the last manager I know about it there and then."

In addition, managers are now being asked to consider ways of helping the unemployed in the rural areas where the group tends to operate. This has led to an increase in the number of unemployed young people hired for summer work.

And Mr Agnew appears desperately keen to become a member of the so-called "one per cent club" of businesses which contribute one per cent of their profits to charitable work. ConsGold is halfway there with the contribution of one per cent of dividend, but could easily be persuaded to become a fully-paid member.

But Mr Agnew confesses there is still a long way to go. "It will take up to three years to get the trust set up the way we would like."

In the meantime the cynics may care to test the theory that ConsGold does have a conscience when it comes to environmental and social issues by approaching Mr Agnew with some constructive ideas.

the North Sea's oil rigs — but not the oil. Verily, we are selling the family silver to pay the grocery bill. Economists need balance sheets of assets as well as profit and loss accounts of income.

A change in the accounting conventions would be useful if only in highlighting our need to maintain our natural and man-made capital: this is more than a debating point, for the Worldwatch study shows that the erosion of topsoil through desertification in the Third World could have ultimately disastrous effects on production. In the poor countries, the dilemma will increasingly be between the control of rising birth rates — as in China — or uncontrolled and rising death rates.

Conventional economists would also be well-advised to take on board too some of the other criticisms of the growth objective, as defined by the Gross Domestic Product.

Higher oil prices have caused the oil companies to try harder to prove reserves, but they have all led to a sharp growth of substitutes, as the Worldwatch Institute's report "State of the World 1985" shows. The major substitutes like coal, natural gas, wood and hydropower have grown at annual rates over the last five years of between 1 and 4 per cent. The growth of minor sources has been more dramatic — with nuclear up 9 per cent, geothermal up 15 per cent, wind power up 76 per cent, alcohol fuels up 30 per cent and solar energy up 20 per cent.

For all those encouraging signs, though, there is something just a little too complacent about the conventional economist's dismissal of concern about natural resources. The first is the commonsense point that price changes do not tend to happen smoothly, and that therefore there can be a justification for governments to

encourage, say, energy saving because of a higher expected price. Secondly, running down oil reserves, even if more are being found, is in a real sense living off our natural capital.

Most people would properly define income as that flow which leaves one's capital stock unchanged. Whether houses or machines — unchanged. Yet the figures for national income overstate the true picture by double-counting the production of man-made investment goods. They are taken into account in the costs of goods and services because companies put aside depreciation allowances, but they are counted again when companies actually produce the machine tools to replace those which have been depreciated.

Even a measure of "Net National Product" as opposed to Gross National Product would not fully take into account the rundown of natural capital such as North Sea oil, yet this should clearly be accounted for as a reduction in capital rather than as income. At present, the national accounts allow fully for the need to replace

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VISITORS to New York's Museum of Modern Art may be left with the impression that Olivetti makes beautiful typewriters and little else. On display at the museum's permanent collection are the famous Lettera 22 portable, which ended production in 1950 and still loyally withstands the daily beating under many a journalist's rough hands, the colourful plastic-cased Valentine portable, the Editor 2 electric typewriter both of which date from the late 1960s and the Lexikon 80 from 1945.

But such an impression would certainly be mistaken. Less than one quarter of the Olivetti group's turnover in 1983 was generated by the sales of typewriters and word processors, compared to more than one third three years earlier.

During the 1980s the company has been moving steadily away from its traditional and widely known product, shifting the emphasis decisively into the electronic world of data processing and office automation.

Apart from the exhibits in the New York museum, the very large volume of typewriters produced by Olivetti has helped to create the image of a one product company. More than 10 million Olivetti typewriters have been sold worldwide. The first Italian typewriter, the M1 which was presented at the Universal Exhibition in Turin in 1911, was followed by a stream of models: Telex 35, Lettera 35s 36s, Praxis 35s and 48s, Lexikon 83s 83s and 90s and the more recent Lettera 10s and ET series occupied desk space in offices all round the world.

Company strategy in the mid 1980s is, however, based firstly on advanced technology and product diversification. In recent years Olivetti has spent \$80 million for venture capital investment in various sectors, buying into thirty high technology companies.

Olivetti's executive vice-president for strategies, Elisirino Pini, said yesterday that the group's purchase of 49.3 per cent of the troubled Acorn Computers was in line with the group's policy of developing partly through a network of alliances.

Moreover the acquisition of 25 per cent of Olivetti's share capital by US giant AT&T at the end of 1983 further underlines how tightly the Italian company

Chip route into nineties for the typewriter giant

David Lane in Rome takes a look at the way Olivetti is shifting emphasis

is tying itself to an electronic future.

Olivetti is convinced that the agreement with AT&T offers many benefits over and above the financial advantages arising from the US company's stake in its share capital. AT&T's research and development capacity, and its know-how and experience in telecommunications are seen as giving a boost to Olivetti in a crucial area.

There is, however, some disappointment concerning the commercial results achieved during the first year of the agreement with AT&T's sale of Olivetti personal computers in the US market being less than had been hoped.

AT&T's acquisition of its large shareholding in Olivetti represented a seal of recognition on the turn-around which the Italian company has achieved since the late 1970s. At its nadir in 1978, the Olivetti group lost \$8 billion on turnover of 1,556 billion lire. But a rapid cure by chairman Carlo De Benedetti who joined this liver-based company in April 1978, turned the bottom line immediately into profit.

In 1980 the Olivetti group made net profits of 104 billion lire on turnover of 2,180 billion lire, figures which by 1983 have climbed to 295 billion lire net profit on turnover of 3,736 billion lire. Results for last year are not yet available but company officials say that turnover was about 25 per cent higher than in 1983, thus putting it at about 4,600 billion lire. Officials expect

that when the profit figure is announced it will show a substantial increase on last year.

The curative action which Carlo De Benedetti took six and seven years ago was drastic. He cut 40 per cent of Olivetti's financial and economic weaknesses. Recapitalisation and the reduction of indebtedness were fundamental.

Share capital has risen from 108 billion lire at the end of 1979 to 450 billion lire in May last year, and the company's net capital has risen six fold over the same period and now exceeds 1,200 billion lire. Net financial indebtedness has dropped from 836 billion lire at the end of 1978 to 725 billion lire, five years later.

It is indicative of the direction taken by Olivetti that, while reducing overall job levels, the number of people which it employs in research and development has moved steadily upwards.

Much of the credit for the survival and relaunching of Olivetti is given to chairman Carlo De Benedetti personally. Fifty years old and born in 1935, he is a native of the south of Italy, 30 miles south of Rome. Mr De Benedetti has rarely been far from the headlines. Before arriving at Olivetti in 1978 his varied curriculum vitae included a four month stint as chief executive of Fiat from May to August 1976. Between November 1981 and January 1982 he was deputy chairman of the ill-fated Banco Ambrosiano, a position he vacated after differences with the bank's chairman Roberto Calvi.

Notwithstanding his extensive interests elsewhere, (through his family company CIR, Mr De Benedetti recently acquired control of one of Italy's largest pasta manufacturers, the IRI's Buitoni Perugini), he has managed to dedicate sufficient time to Olivetti to bring it safely through a period of major reconstruction.

Olivetti, which claims to be Europe's leading office automation equipment company, may no longer be giving the same attention to producing attractive award winning typewriters but it confidently expects to be winning results in the market place with computers like its personal M21 and M34, and other electronic office equipment.

First of all, growth clearly is viable. Not only can it happen, but it has. Britain's output grew last year by 2 1/2 per cent. America's growth was near 7 per cent over the year, which brought its unemployment rate down by 2 percentage points to 7 1/2 per cent. And the good news is that developed world growth of nearly 5 per cent on average — the best since 1976 — has had virtually no demonstrable effect on world commodity prices.

Oil has risen in most currencies in real terms, but other commodities have merely recovered from a trough in the earlier part of last year to show unchanged real prices — after allowing for the price rises of western manufactures — over the year before.

This of course was never meant to happen on the view of the world so assiduously peddled by the Club of Rome back in 1973, and whose adherents still linger in such havens of the "alternative economics" as The Other Economic Summit (TOES) to be held this April. What the Club's view did not take into account, however, was that scarcity leads to a rise in price, and that you do not need to be an economist to see that price rises cause demand to fall and supply to increase.

The sharp rise in oil prices had exactly those effects: the graph shows that the amount of oil needed to produce \$1,000 of world output fell by 21 1/2 per cent since 1973. On the supply side, one recent estimate was that published proved reserves of oil amounted to 32 years' production at current rates — the same as at the end of the sixties.

Nevertheless difficult to foresee a return to profit for the Australian company in the immediate future.

As envisaged in my last report, group borrowings as a percentage of shareholders' funds decreased from 57% to 80%, on a strictly comparable basis, during the year and were further reduced after the year end by the receipt of monies from the sale of the leasing company.

The current year has started well and profits at home should continue to improve, whilst overseas losses will be reduced substantially.

Sir Edgar Beck will, at his own request, not be seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting next March. He joined the Board in 1942 and was Chairman for 20 years between 1968 and 1978. His contribution during this time has been invaluable.

Mr Donald Holland and Mr Michael Wates, Chairman of Balfour Beatty and Wates Holdings respectively, have been appointed to the Board as non-executive directors.

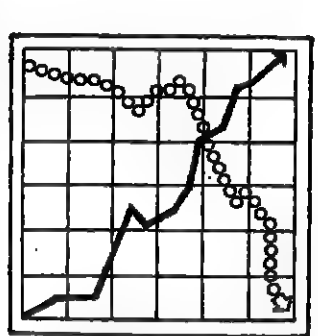
The results of operating companies do not necessarily always reflect the efforts of those involved when they are working in varied and sometimes difficult market conditions. The Board's thanks go to all employees for the efforts they have made over the past year.

Dividends The directors recommended a final dividend of 4.0p per share making a total of 6.3p per share for the year (1983 5.6p per share).

Copies of the Annual Report for the year ended September 28th 1984, are available from The Secretary, SGB GROUP plc, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 4TQ. Tel: 01-640 3395.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 11.30 a.m. on March 19th, 1985 at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London.

Stagnation solves nobody's problems —let's have plenty of green growth



ECONOMICS

Christopher Huhne

MOST economists are so dismissive of the ecologists' arguments for zero growth that they tend to ignore their case altogether — a thoroughly dangerous policy, though, there is something just a little too complacent about the conventional economist's dismissal of concern about natural resources. The first is the commonsense point that price changes do not tend to happen smoothly, and that therefore there can be a justification for governments to

encourage, say, energy saving because of a higher expected price. Secondly, running down oil reserves, even if more are being found, is in a real sense living off our natural capital.

Most people would properly define income as that flow which leaves one's capital stock unchanged. Whether houses or machines — unchanged. Yet the figures for national income overstate the true picture by double-counting the production of man-made investment goods. They are taken into account in the costs of goods and services because companies put aside depreciation allowances, but they are counted again when companies actually produce the machine tools to replace those which have been depreciated.

Even a measure of "Net National Product" as opposed to Gross National Product would not fully take into account the rundown of natural capital such as North Sea oil, yet this should clearly be accounted for as a reduction in capital rather than as income. At present, the national accounts allow fully for the need to replace

the North Sea's oil rigs — but not the oil. Verily, we are selling the family silver to pay the grocery bill. Economists need balance sheets of assets as well as profit and loss accounts of income.

A change in the accounting conventions would be useful if only in highlighting our need to maintain our natural and man-made capital: this is more than a debating point, for the Worldwatch study shows that the erosion of topsoil through desertification in the Third World could have ultimately disastrous effects on production. In the poor countries, the dilemma will increasingly be between the control of rising birth rates — as in China — or uncontrolled and rising death rates.

Conventional economists would also be well-advised to take on board too some of the other criticisms of the growth objective, as defined by the Gross Domestic Product.

Higher oil prices have caused the oil companies to try harder to prove reserves, but they have all led to a sharp growth of substitutes, as the Worldwatch Institute's report "State of the World 1985" shows. The major substitutes like coal, natural gas, wood and hydropower have grown at annual rates over the last five years of between 1 and 4 per cent. The growth of minor sources has been more dramatic — with nuclear up 9 per cent, geothermal up 15 per cent, wind power up 76 per cent, alcohol fuels up 30 per cent and solar energy up 20 per cent.

For all those encouraging signs, though, there is something just a little too complacent about the conventional economist's dismissal of concern about natural resources. The first is the commonsense point that price changes do not tend to happen smoothly, and that therefore there can be a justification for governments to

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Dreams made out of inflated values



Robin Stoddart

INVESTMENT

Chaining children to the bedpost to keep them under control is wrong, but sending them up chimneys or down the stairs is equally wrong. It is seriously believed that the burden will be borne.

Government borrowing amounts to around 4 per cent of the national income and, in spite of innumerable promises and some fading of the books, it has shown little sign of reduction. As lower state spending is the main plank remaining on the scaffolding in the case of a constitutionalist, the government's policy of borrowing can confidently be expected to continue.

...from the Chancellor next month.

Much the same programme is being pursued across the Atlantic, except that the President has achieved much greater economic success and is in no hurry to turn budget words into action when almost all the big figures are growing nicely away. Down on the farm and in the urban centres, the picture is healthy, but the much-cited fact that the average family of four can now be supported on a single income is not to be taken too literally. It is not to be taken too literally.

The fastest-growing item of expenditure in the United States and Britain is servicing the national debt. Though again, the trend in Britain has been made a little obscure, indexed issues and all kinds of National Savings promotions do not conceal the weight of interest that is being added to the debt mountain.

Such liabilities almost pale, however, in comparison to the commitments that are being made to prospective pensioners. Still more unreal may lie among the couple of million people who are already in the happy state of qualifying, or being about to qualify, for a state pension. The state pension is not being funded by any known assets, other than the general fund of taxpayers. Fortunately, or unfortunately, for them, most employees have not stayed in one job long enough to qualify for the high proportion of peak earnings that a growing minority believe they will be able to enjoy in retirement. Such dreams can only be made of inflated values on the stock market and in property.

All saving is a call on the future prosperity of the country, of course, as well as an act of faith in its stability and judicial system. The only certainty about Britain's economic performance when most present infants or pupils reach something like the average earning level is that 67 per cent of the total national income will no longer accrue from North Sea oil.

The nation's true wealth lies in its productive assets and lasting amenities. Overseas holdings may provide a stabiliser, though they cannot be counted upon to sustain a large section of the population. Investment in the future is now the top priority in the interests of both the older and younger elements in the population if they hope to enjoy reasonable living standards throughout their lives, particularly in retirement.

Although investment in new equipment is rising again and the share being taken by fast-back offshore enterprise is less preponderant, the really long-term provision that will benefit more than one generation is not being made on anything like the scale seen in most periods of economic growth in the past as a glance at construction industry and homebuilding statistics underlines.

Although public or other office building might not seem to command a very high priority, the infrastructure does, and soon will. And if one of the few reliable areas of rapid growth is going to be the tourist inflow, a spot of beautification would not go amiss, along with more native employment if the necessary grades are available.

Veracity and government are not necessarily incompatible and when rightist administrations admit that they are ill-equipped to decide on the best investments, they may be showing greater honesty than some of more socialist leanings in an age of rapidly-advancing technology the role of market forces may be all the more vital. But when job elimination is still running faster than job creation, more Government involvement is necessary and inevitable.

The new emphasis on enterprise and incentive is perfectly reasonable, too, so long as it works. It works apparently in the US. If it is beginning to work in Britain, the results are taking an unreasonably long time to show through.

Too long against the background of the damage indicated by the high exchange and interest rate regime of five years ago. Intolerably long when the memory of this has been revived by the return to near-record real interest rates, and expansion seems beyond the ken of most top industrialists.

Profits and honours have been heaped not so much on the creators of new businesses,

as in the past, but frequently on those who have been quick to eliminate losses, sometimes in privatisation and merger exercises that have transferred the cost, or much of it, back to the state. It is an odd state of affairs when capitalists are knighted for such public disservice and private gain.

More modest savers can now make high returns on special bank deposits or in savings certificates that they did not bother to cash in. These returns are better in most cases than the building societies do provide. They are better than those offered by Government stocks. High tax-payers can do better still by going offshore.

It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that something is rotten in the public purse, in a week when conventional and indexed-linked gilts have improved in value it is a toss-up as to whether markets are pointing to a deflation or renewed inflation. The latter, followed by the former, might be the explanation that fits best. It could also be the consequence of a further and more final international debt crunch.

Meantime share prices continue to enjoy the best of all possible worlds, basking in the strong dollar and reflected progress of the US economy. But even there, seeds of instability are being left to grow into weeds that might choke the more vulnerable sections of the international community.

Takeover rumours keep investors on their toes

THE MARKETS

Stock market activity was dominated by takeover speculation yesterday as Trifalgar House announced a £180 million rights issue to finance bids for Haden and the Varro shipyard. Haden immediately rejected the 240p cash terms as inadequate and opportunistic and the shares raced ahead to close 48p higher at 280p.

Earlier this week the shares had risen 20p to 236p on rumours of a bid. Trifalgar closed 12p to 350p, but other engineering issues were stimulated by hopes of further mergers in the sector.

Outside the takeover favourites, business was pretty slack as dealers continued to watch the pound and await developments from the Prime Minister's visit to America, and Paul Volcker's speech to Congress. In the event prices closed below the best as the pound sank under \$1.06.

Gilts ended little changed having been three-eighths firmer. Index-linked issues improved three-eighths or so. Leading industrial shares were mixed. Imperial Group recovered 5p to 211p on US demand and an encouraging circular. Plessey, at 176p, recovered 4p after touching 180p ahead of today's third-quarter figures which are anxiously awaited after recent gloomy statements from major electronic companies. Analysts hope for nine-months profits of around £123 million, a little below the £124 million for the same period last year.

During the session there was also relief as Olivetti confirmed the rescue plan for Acorn Computers. Companies close to Plessey had a busy day as investors speculated on a possible full-scale offer for Fleet Holdings (up 19p to 384p) to thwart their attempt to merge with Altkem. Reuters were also wanted at 388p, up 20p, on American buying in front of the results next week. BET slipped 13p to 285p on the net unexpected news that the company is renewing its offer for Initial (up 1p to 285p) following the go-ahead by the Monopolies Commission.

Banks staged a modest recovery in spite of the worsening problems in South America. Sir William Clark's remarks at a broker's seminar that the Chancellor will not attack pension concessions brought some calm to life insurance. Golds slipped one to two dollars, and platinum lost more ground.

Leading equities closed with a mixed appearance, but ICI were firmer after a broker's circular, ahead of next week's results. They gained 5p to 867p. Lucas added 5p, at 268p, thanks to US support. Oils were mixed. BP gave up 2p at 642p. Banks also lacked a particular trend. NatWest relinquished 2p at 682p, but Barclays improved by 3p at 617p. Elsewhere, bid specu-

lation and bid approaches provided much of the activity. Victor Products, up 16p at 116p, Martonair, 14p ahead at 344p, and Matthew Hall, which went 4p better to 320p, all improved behind the bid for Haden.

Delta Group strengthened on bid speculation, up 5p at 125p, and Weir Group, also wanted for speculative reasons, added 4p to 541p. British Aerospace gained after comment, up 10p at 380p.

Henderson Group, following the recent acquisition, rose 11p to 301p. Midhead, with results today, gained 18p to 192p on bid speculation. Textile engineering concern Carole moved up after news of the partial sale of an Indian subsidiary, gaining 20p to 228p.

In the electronics sector, which firms to begin with but then slipped back, AB Electronics, the main creditor of Acorn Computers, firmed by 20p, to 420p on news of the rescue package. This was below the best of 438p. Rael, also below the best, went up 4p to 200.

Elsewhere, Lex Services lost 10p to 215p following recent adverse comment in the leisure sector. Trident TV added 3p to 243p on the Pleasura news of a bid approach. Pleasura improved by 2p at 415p. Another pair embroiled in a bid situation are Dee Corporation and Booker. Dee announced a profit forecast and added 7p to 307p. Booker moved up 3p to 245p in sympathy.

In textiles, Vantona, with figures due next week, strengthened 11p to 307p. Elsewhere Low and Bonar moved up 10p to 318p ahead of results due soon and following recent orders. Sasechi and Sasechi gained 27p to 880p thanks to US Support. Discount house Seccombe Marshall jumped 50p to 360p after news of a bid approach. London and Strathclyde also moved up to a bid approach. They added 10p at 182p.

Stock Conversion, up 15p at 433p, met speculative demand. Goode Durrant, mother company to announce a bid approach, improved by 16p to 64p. Waterford Glass added 11p to 45p on profits up by 44.5 per cent.

Main changes: Haden 280p up 48p; Trifalgar House 350p up 12p; Plessey 176p up 4p; Reuters 388p up 20p; IMPs 211p up 5p; BET 285p down 13p; Initial 522p up 1p.

Stock Exchange turnover for February 19: Numbers of bargains 21,044; Value £348,667 million.

Paris: Shares were pushed higher in active trading by a combination of foreign demand

and technical factors. With the dollar continuing to advance to new records, US investors were active buyers of French stocks. Local investors were also aggressive as they built up positions in preparation for the start of a new monthly trading account. The general market indicator finished the session with a gain of 0.54 per cent. Advances issues outdistanced declines 111 to 51.

Frankfurt: Profit-taking bumped share prices down from firmer opening levels. Leaving stock quotes mixed at 18.4 of lively dealing. The Commerbank index, which is compiled at midday, registered 1188.5, a new record highest level. The reading was up 7.5 points from Tuesday's level, which had also been an all-time high. Dealers said the market's tone remained optimistic, backed by solid foreign buying in the wake of the dollar's rise to more than 18-year highest levels against the mark, which makes West German investments particularly attractive.

Tokyo: Prices fell in dull trading. Brokers said the market lacked any energising news. Although Wall Street's decline on Tuesday hurt prices of some shares traded in New York, overall the impact was neutral, a broker said. A dollar climb back to the 281 yen level. Nikkei Dow Jones index, 12,152.37 (12,156.64).

Hong Kong: Stock Exchange closed for the Chinese lunar year holiday.

Money markets: Overnight money opened on 14-13 per cent, but spent most of the morning on 14-13 per cent, the early part of the afternoon saw a firming to 14-1/2 per cent, and the rate moved on to 15-1/2 per cent in the late stages before ending around 15 per cent.

Periods tended a little easier at first encouraged by the way the pound was holding relatively steady during the morning. But the early afternoon. But rates firmed again when sterling wobbled and then weakened in the second half of the afternoon. The 12-month Interbank term deposit, for instance, eased to 12-7/16 to 12-5/16 per cent, but ended a higher on balance at 12-1/16 to 12-3/16 per cent.

COMPANY BRIEFING

Dee goes wooing with new forecast

The Dee Corporation continues its aggressive courtship of its shareholders with a new profit forecast for the full year of not less than £86 million.

Dee's aggressive chairman, Mr Alec Monk, said that not only as the group did not pay an unrealistic price for Booker, but he expected to reorganise the group to provide an excellent opportunity for Dee to diversify through Booker's agricultural and health interests.

Dee is also forecasting earnings per share of not less than 14p and it expects to reorganise the group to provide an excellent opportunity for Dee to diversify through Booker's agricultural and health interests.

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Rowland reticent

Mr Tiny Rowland, chief executive of the giant Lorch group, was as usual giving nothing away about his intentions towards House of Fraser in the group's annual report yesterday.

In his tight-lipped way Mr Rowland tells shareholders: "With our knowledge of the business we considered our purchases, around 300p per share, to be an attractive investment. We have also been before the Monopolies Commission and the outcome of their deliberations will have a direct bearing on our future policy regarding House of Fraser." Shareholders are reminded that Lorch, which bought its shares in the Harrods group for just under £7 million, sold out to the Al-Fayed brothers for £138 million and retained the right to receive a

Goode boost

Shares in Goode Durrant and Murray, the banking services to financial institutions, jumped 18p to 64p yesterday on news that the group may have received an approach which may lead to a bid.

Goode's chairman, Mr Lionel Robinson, who controls over 60 per cent of the group through a Cayman Islands trust company, said that discussions had reached a serious stage.

Market rumours suggested Mr Michael Ashcroft's Hawley group, which has expressed interest in expanding into financial services, but there was no comment available from Mr Robinson.

The group also owns housebuilding interests and a department store in New Zealand.

Clyde's offer

Clyde Petroleum's £9 million cash bid for Petrolex is based on the value of its stake in the Forties field and a payment for a small stake in a discovery that will probably be uneconomic unless tied in with an adjoining field in which Clyde already has a stake.

That is the argument in the offer document, but the 58p-a-share offer is 10p below the price at which Petrolex was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market last summer. Since the bid it has rebounded 18p almost back to that figure in small-scale trading.

Petrolex's board and its advisers have so far declined to meet the Clyde directors or give an estimate of how much the company's assets are realistically worth. The value to Clyde accrues from the tax saving that a Forties stake would bring when the income is spent on exploration.

Depletion and the weaker oil price trend since the Forties unit auction means that in effect a little over £2 million is being offered for the stakes held by Petrolex in two small discoveries — one in the gas area Quadrant 46 and the

In short...

TECHNOLOGY Inc, the US industrial and aerospace group, yesterday extended its £4 million takeover terms for Sutherland-Hawley, the low-making engineering group, for a further three weeks until March 12. TI has holdings and share option rights which, if exercised, would give it a total holding of 55.1 per cent of Sutherland-Hawley's enlarged share capital.

PLEASURAMA's £118 million agreed bid for Trident Television will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission for investigation, the Department of Trade and Industry confirmed yesterday. The merger brings together Trident's Claremont, Victoria Sporting Club, Connoisseur and Village Club, under the same roof as Pleasura's Maxim's casino in London and 17 other provincial casinos.

Other in block 16/26 where Eif of France is the operator.

There are several large institutional shareholders in Petrolex, by contrast with the situation in Premier Consolidated where the mainly private shareholders rejected the Carless Capel bid and then saw their shares fall in the face of a rights issue to fund further exploration.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE

British Funds			Brawns			Comm & Ind			Corps & Bonds			Banks & Disc Hous			Financial Trusts		
Jan 1985	1185	1185	Jan 1985	1185	1185	Jan 1985	1185	1185	Jan 1985	1185	1185	Jan 1985	1185	1185	Jan 1985	1185	1185
Feb 1985	1185	1185	Feb 1985	1185	1185	Feb 1985	1185	1185	Feb 1985	1185	1185	Feb 1985	1185	1185	Feb 1985	1185	1185
Mar 1985	1185	1185	Mar 1985	1185	1185	Mar 1985	1185	1185	Mar 1985	1185	1185	Mar 1985	1185	1185	Mar 1985	1185	1185
Apr 1985	1185	1185	Apr 1985	1185	1185	Apr 1985	1185	1185	Apr 1985	1185	1185	Apr 1985	1185	1185	Apr 1985	1185	1185
May 1985	1185	1185	May 1985	1185	1185	May 1985	1185	1185	May 1985	1185	1185	May 1985	1185	1185	May 1985	1185	1185
Jun 1985	1185	1185	Jun 1985	1185	1185	Jun 1985	1185	1185	Jun 1985	1185	1185	Jun 1985	1185	1185	Jun 1985	1185	1185
Jul 1985	1185	1185	Jul 1985	1185	1185	Jul 1985	1185	1185	Jul 1985	1185	1185	Jul 1985	1185	1185	Jul 1985	1185	1185
Aug 1985	1185	1185	Aug 1985	1185	1185	Aug 1985	1185	1185	Aug 1985	1185	1185	Aug 1985	1185	1185	Aug 1985	1185	1185
Sep 1985	1185	1185	Sep 1985	1185	1185	Sep 1985	1185	1185	Sep 1985	1185	1185	Sep 1985	1185	1185	Sep 1985	1185	1185
Oct 1985	1185	1185	Oct 1985	1185	1185	Oct 1985	1185	1185	Oct 1985	1185	1185	Oct 1985	1185	1185	Oct 1985	1185	1185
Nov 1985	1185	1185	Nov 1985	1185	1185	Nov 1985	1185	1185	Nov 1985	1185	1185	Nov 1985	1185	1185	Nov 1985	1185	1185
Dec 1985	1185	1185	Dec 1985	1185	1185	Dec 1985	1185	1185	Dec 1985	1185	1185	Dec 1985	1185	1185	Dec 1985	1185	1185
Jan 1986	1185	1185	Jan 1986	1185	1185	Jan 1986	1185	1185	Jan 1986	1185	1185	Jan 1986	1185	1185	Jan 1986	1185	1185
Feb 1986	1185	1185	Feb 1986	1185	1185	Feb 1986	1185	1185	Feb 1986	1185	1185	Feb 1986	1185	1185	Feb 1986	1185	1185
Mar 1986	1185	1185	Mar 1986	1185	1185	Mar 1986	1185	1185	Mar 1986	1185	1185	Mar 1986	1185	1185	Mar 1986	1185	1185
Apr 1986	1185	1185	Apr 1986	1185	1185	Apr 1986	1185	1185	Apr 1986	1185	1185	Apr 1986	1185	1185	Apr 1986	1185	1185
May 1986	1185	1185	May 1986	1185	1185	May 1986	1185	1185	May 1986	1185	1185	May 1986	1185	1185	May 1986	1185	1185
Jun 1986	1185	1185	Jun 1986	1185	1185	Jun 1986	1185	1185	Jun 1986	1185	1185	Jun 1986	1185	1185	Jun 1986	1185	1185
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The latest round of World Cup qualifying matches are played next week. David Lacey examines the state of the road to Mexico

Beckenbauer's search for a star

When Mexico last staged the World Cup, in 1970, the favourites were then regarded as the outstanding teams in their respective hemispheres — England, the holders, and Brazil, the eventual winners.

At the moment no international side can be said to command similar respect although France, after 12 successive victories and a European Championship, may be inclined to disagree. Moreover, the advance of the Third World, and especially Africa, in international football has seriously undermined some of the traditional assumptions.

West Germany have never been quite the same since losing their opening game of the 1982 tournament 2-1 to Algeria. True, they reached the final but their football has yet to recover its old assurance, witness the recent scrambled victory in Malta.

Franz Beckenbauer, now in charge of the side following the departure of Jupp Derwall, desperately needs new players of genuine international quality. At the moment West Germany are still heavily reliant on Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, Karl-Heinz Förster and Bregel, and they badly need the creative influence of someone like Schuster, who inspired them to the 1980 European Championship triumph and is now playing better than ever for Barcelona.

Italy qualify automatically as holders and will need all the time they can get to reassemble and re-inject life into their disparate team. Rossi, Conti, Scirea, and Casiraghi are still there but much more will be needed. The other automatic qualifiers, Mexico, the host nation, are no longer the pushovers they appeared to be when the draw was made but will hardly go in as World Cup favourites.

Form in the qualifying competition usually has little bearing on what happens in the finals but the early prowess of France, England, Scotland and Hungary cannot be ignored altogether.

France are playing the most attractive football at present with Platini, Tigana, Giresse, and Fernandez recalling their best moments of the European Championship during the recent 2-0 defeat of East Germany. However, Giresse's legs are firing, the strikers are of ordinary quality and the defence would be vulnerable without Bossis.

Remembering the way in which the French started to flag after reaching the semi-finals of the European Championship there must be doubts about their ability to keep going in the Mexico heat. Again the conditions will favour teams such as Brazil, Uruguay and Spain who know how to pace themselves, along with England and Scotland who are seldom found out in tests of stamina.

After the Spanish experience the format of the 24-nation tournament has been changed to introduce the excitement of a knockout competition at an earlier stage. Again the World Cup finals will begin with six groups of four completed on a league basis but this time the top two teams from each nation plus the four best third-placed sides will go straight into the sudden death.

The 1986 World Cup opens on May 31 with the final on June 29. The 12 venues are Juarez, Guadalajara, Irapuato, Leon, Mexico City, Monterrey, Puebla, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi, Tampico, Toluca and Veracruz.

To get their players used to the conditions in a relatively cool but polluted Mexico City that is — England will play Mexico, Italy and West Germany in the Aztec Stadium in June.



MEXICO OR BUST: Scotland's Jock Stein... on a crest; Franz Beckenbauer of West Germany... trying to pull out of a trough



WORLD CUP GROUPS AND TABLES

GROUP ONE. — The advance of Albania, and Belgium's decline, has made this group much more open than it might have been. Albania followed up their 2-2 draw in Poland by beating the week-end Belgians 2-0 and must be given a chance of at least making the play-off, runners-up, with their counterparts in Group Five. The two games with Greece will make or break their hopes. Meanwhile the Belgians will look to Sofia, Vassil, Elst, and the like to revive them, and the final match in the group, between Poland and Belgium, could still be the most crucial.

GROUP TWO. — Here again it is difficult to find a consistent pattern in the games played so far. Portugal began well by winning in Sweden and beating the Czechs but then lost at home to the Swedes. West Germany's response to the brave new world of Franz Beckenbauer, who succeeded Jupp Derwall as manager, was to scrape a 3-2 victory in Malta after falling behind. Even so the Germans should make it with the Czechs at present most likely to accompany them.

GROUP THREE. — England's imperious beginning should not be allowed to blind the fact that there are still plenty of points to be won or lost and Bobby Robson will breathe much more easily once he knows that the pre-Christmas appetite for goals has been maintained. England and Scotland will lose either in Northern Ireland next month or in Finland in early summer. But Romania, their opponents in Bucharest on May day, are a threat. Indeed the Irish, with their last three matches away, face the possibility of being overtaken by the Romanians.

GROUP FOUR. — France, still playing like the European champions they are, should win this group with something to spare, especially with their last two fixtures at home. However they did struggle to defeat Bulgaria in Paris and on present form the Bulgarians have a better chance than Yugoslavia of qualifying as runners-up. The Yugoslavs will doubtless steal a march on Bulgaria by beating Luxembourg but if they fail to halt France's winning run of a dozen games in April the initiative will pass back to Sofia.

GROUP FIVE. — After their dismal showing in the last European Championship, Hungary are pulling their game together and three straight wins, including a victory in Holland, have set them on course for the finals. Austria ought to make the play-offs with the runners-up from Group One but the number of goals every-body scores against Cyprus may be decisive. The Dutch must be hoping that if they have to win in Budapest on May 14 the opposition will have faded a place in Mexico by then.

GROUP SIX. — Yet again the Soviet Union have been a disappointment when it comes to the real thing. Their assured victory in a friendly against England at Wembley last summer made them favourites to qualify with Denmark but a defeat in Dublin and draw in Norway has narrowed their chances. The Swedes, with victories against both Norway and the Danes are upsetting calculations in this group and their next match, against the Soviet Union on April 17, is crucial.

GROUP SEVEN. — Scotland's memorable 3-1 defeat of Spain at Hampden put them somewhere between France and England as Europe's most impressive international side. But if they lose in Spain next month Jock Stein's team will have as much to do again if they are to win the group outright and avoid a play-off with the winners of the Oceania-Israel section. Scotland's final qualifying game is in Wales and the Spaniards conclude against Iceland a fortnight later — not a happy sequence of events from a Scottish point of view.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Sweden	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
West Germany	4	2	0	2	4	4	4
Czechoslovakia	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Malta	4	0	4	0	3	14	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Yugoslavia	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
England	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Scotland	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Romania	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	4	3	0	1	7	2	6
Austria	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Holland	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
Cyprus	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Denmark	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Sweden	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Soviet Union	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Norway	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Belgium	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Poland	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Albania	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Greece	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

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France	4	3	1	0	7	4	7
Yugoslavia	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
England	4	1	1	2	3	5	3
Scotland	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Romania	4	0	0	4	2	10	0

Ararun out of Champion betting

RACING

Richard Baerlein

The £20,000 Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown yesterday failed to unearth a serious challenger to Browne's Gazette and Gaye Brief for the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle.

Ararun, the champion of the 1984 Sweepstakes Hurdle, was fourth under light weights, and fourth under 11st 13lb last month, brought Ararun's six consecutive victories to a full stop.

Ararun tried to make all the running, but his performance was slightly disappointing in spite of the fact that he was said to need the outing. He had looked such a promising future prospect, and now the connections are unlikely to run him in the Champion for which he was third favourite at 8-1. He has been withdrawn from the betting.

Jockey Tony Mullins reported that Ararun had been hanging on the ground that was too fast for him, but added: "He jumped super, and could have been a little closer only I didn't want to punish him when Fredcoter won."

Fredcoter won by a length and a half and was gaining first victory of the season. He started a third favourite for the Champion together with See You Then at 12-1 by Hills who have Browne's Gazette at 4-5 and Gaye Brief at 4-1.

The four-year-old Alty Toward, trained by Dermot Weld, ran a good third in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle in finishing fourth, about four lengths behind the winner.

Toward had won her two previous races, but her connections are unlikely to run her in the Champion for which she was third favourite at 8-1. He has been withdrawn from the betting.

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THURLES

GOING: Sat.

2 00-DRUM 4-Y-O HURDLE: 21st, 11.05. (21 names).

001 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	002 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	003 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	004 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4
005 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	006 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	007 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	008 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4
009 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	010 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	011 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	012 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4
013 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	014 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	015 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	016 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4
017 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	018 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	019 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4	020 NINO VOLANDER M. O'Leary 11-4

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Secrets of a professional punter

Alex Bird, whose life story appears on the bookshelves this morning has been a close friend of mine for 30 years.

In 1963 after considerable persuasion because his wife Evelyn hated any form of publicity he finally allowed me to compile a book about him. The Observer on his amazing life style headed "The life of the Great Gambler". Alex Bird did not like the description gambler as he maintained he was an investor.

That weekend the Observer was kept strictly out of sight in the Bird household though within three weeks the article had been leaked to Evelyn and was eventually framed and put on the billiard room wall.

At this time Alex's enormous operation was beginning to run down for there was no future in making one and a half million turnover in a 23 million turnover if the bookmaker was going to deduct a two and a half per cent in betting tax. Adjustments to the system had to be introduced.

The life and secrets of a professional punter, the subsidiary title of the book, has been very well presented and written in conjunction with Terry Manners. While it may not possess the excitement of a Dick Francis thriller it should prove just as interesting to the racing book addict as it is to the racing man. That is where it differs from so many recent books on racing personalities.

It sets out in detail the exceptional life style of a man who made his fortune in the most unusual way. He

possesses a quality which is totally foreign to most gamblers in that he has complete control of himself and his actions at all times. If he thinks a horse has a chance never will he be tempted at 2-1. If on his figures a horse comes out clear top he will back it however badly it goes in the market and even if the jockey tells him it has no chance.

He takes tips from no one and, as only his close associates know too well, he is not the least interested in inside information.

The Jockey Club refuse to accept the fact that a man could be so successful without inside help. They almost regarded him at one stage as a crooked owner and were determined to get rid of him.

He had horses in training at Lewes, Sussex with Towser Godson who was trained for jockey club member Sir Harold Wernher and his wife Lady Zia. Sir Harold's IQ was a long way ahead of those members running racing but he preferred

to remain in the background. He was sent by the Jockey Club to tell Godson that if he continued to train for Alex Bird he would lose his licence. Bird was not out of the running of one of his horses.

I was a confidant of Godson at the time and it worried him no end. He was horrified, but decided to ignore the threat for a year. Then Sir Harold came back with a positive threat "Get Bird out of the stable or else."

Godson was in despair. He did not want to lose his best owner but what could he do? When the Jockey Club have decided to get you, you are already doomed. He wrote Alex a letter telling him to get Bird to remove his horses but he kept it in his pocket for three weeks, not having the courage to post it. Then one morning he rang me up and I could tell there were tears in his eyes as he said simply, "I've posted it." He was never the same again as he told me later. I have never known anything quite so unfair.

One story not in the book

concerns a night in Washington when we went over for the Laurel International. We had spent the day collecting 50,000 dollars in Washington for Alex Bird. He was to use the money to buy a horse for the William Hill Dewhurst the Gorytus had been scoring as he was led out on to the course in such an abnormal manner that he must have been given something. Within a week Alex had found a vet who confirmed my observations. Eighteen months later Dick Hern confirmed that Gorytus had been tampered with before the race.

This autobiography published by Queen Anne Press at £9.95 will appeal to everyone for it is straight from the shoulder.

There can never be another Alex Bird. The book-makers 11th commandment "Thou shalt not win" will make sure of that.

Richard Baerlein

Results

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Results

1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)
1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)
1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)	1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2) 1.5 (2)
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Kempton is due to race again on Saturday, along with Doncaster and Stratford. Milder conditions are taking the frost out of the ground at Doncaster, and there will only be a 7.30 inspection on Saturday morning if necessary.

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CRICKET

Matthew Engel in Melbourne

Indians back in form

A FUNNY and for England, unnerving thing happened in Melbourne last night when India, whose eccentric approach to one-day cricket has been a feature of the winter, entered the world championship with a dramatic rediscovery of the form that won them the World Cup two years ago.

The Indians beat Pakistan to go level with Australia at the top of Group A, and already England are under pressure. If Australia beat Pakistan on Sunday and England lose to India on Tuesday, they will be out of the competition.

Even 48 hours ago Gower's team, having beaten India four times out of five in one-day games, would not have worried about taking them on again. But their confidence, after a defeat against Australia and two awful performances in practice matches, is now almost as broken as Tim Robinson's. And now a new reality is imposed by the sight of a team who bear a vague facial resemblance to the crew that lost to England in places like Bangalore but otherwise look nothing like them.

The man of the match, and you could have guessed this, was Mohammed Azharuddin who, on his first overseas appearance, not to mention his first game under lights, performed with skill and aplomb that marked his 818 runs against England, and scored 93 net out. Those of us who knew all about him sat there with the smug air of people in on a secret while the Australians marvelled at the easy confidence of his batting.

